

Clinton Trial Will Be 'Fair And Quick,' Lott Vows

Senate's Proceedings To Begin Thursday; Details Remain Sketchy

By Brian Knowlton International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton will formally begin on Thursday, the Senate majority leader announced Tuesday, but crucial details of the proceeding remain murky.

As the 106th Congress prepared to convene Wednesday, it was still unknown if the trial would be concluded in days or possibly go on for months.

The Senate majority leader, Trent Lott of Mississippi, promised a "fair and quick" hearing of the charges that Mr. Clinton committed perjury and obstructed justice to conceal his intimate relationship with a former intern, Monica Lewinsky.

"We have a constitutional duty here," Mr. Lott said. "It is a very serious one. It is one we must carry forward. We will do our very best to do this in a proper way."

But he provided no other details about what would happen Thursday, or how long a trial might last. He and other senators met throughout the day, but no clear road map emerged.

The lack of clarity appeared to indicate that a plan promoted by Mr. Lott and leading Democrats for an expedited trial has failed to draw sufficient support from other senators.

Mr. Lott had met earlier with his Democratic counterpart, Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, and with the chief justice of the Supreme Court, William Rehnquist, who will preside over Mr. Clinton's Senate trial.

White House lawyers were not included in the discussions, but they let it be known Tuesday that they were preparing a vigorous defense, and planned to challenge aggressively some of the factual allegations in the report to the House of Representatives by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel.

The White House defense before the House Judiciary Committee was based largely on the assertion that the charges against Mr. Clinton, even if proved, were not grounds for impeachment.

Mr. Daschle, speaking before his meeting with Mr. Lott, said that he still believed that most senators favored an expedited proceeding against Mr. Clinton. "The longer this drags out, the more acrimonious, the more political and the less helpful it'll be," he said on NBC television.

Later, at a news conference, he offered little conviction that the proposal would receive the necessary 51 votes, saying only, "I wouldn't say it's dead."

Because of Republican opposition, he added, "we may well have to go to Plan B, C, or D."

The trial will be the first of a president in 130 years — the first since President Andrew Johnson avoided conviction by a single-vote margin — and leading senators and Justice Rehnquist have little precedent to guide them.

Sources told The Associated Press that the plan tentatively discussed Tuesday by the Senate leaders called for Justice Rehnquist to administer a constitutionally prescribed oath to senators on Thursday, so that they may sit as jurors.

Later the same day, the 13 members of the House of Representatives who have been designated as "managers" of the trial would formally outline the two articles of impeachment that the full House passed on Dec. 19.

This step assumes that the 13, all members of the Judiciary Committee, will receive formal authorization to serve as managers in a House vote set for Wednesday.

There was some discussion among House Democrats of voting against the 13, as an expression of protest, but the Republican majority in the House appears to assure them the needed votes.

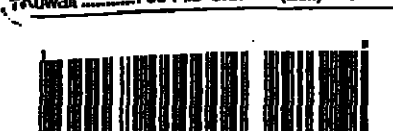
Democrats were also considering a new attempt to place the House on record in favor of censure. This is also considered nearly certain to fail.

After the senators are sworn in, the proceedings will probably be suspended while both sides prepare legal papers.

The Senate would issue a writ of summons to the president, setting a date for him to appear and answer the charges. But he has the right to be

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Newsstand Prices	
Andorra	10.00 FF Lebanon
Antilles	12.50 FF Morocco
Cameroon	1.600 CFA Qatar
Egypt	5.50 FF Réunion
France	10.00 FF Saudi Arabia
Gabon	1.100 CFA Senegal
Italy	3.000 Lira Spain
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA Tunisia
Jordan	1.250 JD U.A.E.
Kuwait	700 Fils U.S. ML (Eur)



Tokyo traders taking stock of their positions as the dollar fell toward the 27-month low of 110.490 yen it hit Tuesday. Investors have been selling dollars for yen to take advantage of a near-doubling in Japanese bond yields.

The Dollar		
New York	Tuesday 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.1778	1.1828
Pound	1.655	1.6607
Yen	111.305	111.925
DM	1.6585	1.653
FF	5.5708	5.5886
Dollars per pound and per euro		
The Dow		
Tuesday 4 P.M.	previous close	percent change
+126.92	9,211.19	+1.36%
S&P 500		
Tuesday 4 P.M.	previous close	percent change
+16.67	1,244.77	+1.36%
Nasdaq		
Tuesday 4 P.M.	previous close	percent change
+43.23	2,251.27	+1.96%

Debate Is Started On Euro's Course

A day after the euro's powerful debut, the Italian Treasury minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, warned Tuesday that the European Central Bank could cut interest rates if the new single currency for 11 countries became too strong. Elsewhere in Europe, there was less concern about the currency's eventual strength. Page 11.

Japanese Minister Recants

Tokyo Plays Down 'Inappropriate Remarks' That Criticized U.S. and 'Peace Constitution'

By Nicholas D. Kristof New York Times Service

TOKYO — The government backed away on Tuesday from remarks by a cabinet member suggesting that Japanese are unhappy with their "Peace Constitution" and that the United States bullies other countries.

Justice Minister Shozaburo Nakamura apologized for his remarks and said he had not meant them. The comments were the latest in a long tradition of top Japanese officials' making incendiary statements and then sheepishly retracting them after they become public.

"The so-called free-market economy cited by the U.S. is not real freedom," Mr. Nakamura had told several hundred ministry officials at a New Year's party, according to reports by Japanese newspapers. "It is a kind of freedom that lets loose atom bombs and missiles just when another country appears to gain an advantage."

Mr. Nakamura, 64, did not elaborate. But he specifically denounced the United States for threatening sanctions against countries accused of unfair trade practices.

To many Japanese, the most striking comments by Mr. Nakamura were his suggestions that the constitution is burdensome and should be changed to give Japan the right to use military force.

"We are struggling under a consti-

tution that prevents us from having an army and denies us the ability to revise" it, Mr. Nakamura said, according to the Asahi Shimbun.

"The constitution, which prohibits Japan from engaging in war and strips Japan of its right to self-defense and holding an army, was handed down by the Allied forces to the Japanese people," he added. "And we are now struggling with the fact that we cannot revise it."

Most historians agree with Mr. Nakamura's view that the constitution was imposed on Japan by the United States in the aftermath of World War II, but legally Japan has every right to amend its constitution. Such a move, however, would trigger bitter protests among Asian countries that Japan invaded during the war.

At a cabinet meeting Tuesday, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi raised the matter of Mr. Nakamura's remarks — which were widely reported in Japanese newspapers on Tuesday — and asked him to explain.

Mr. Nakamura told the cabinet, "The true meaning of these remarks I made on the occasion of the New Year ceremony at the Ministry of Justice was to explain various issues facing our country as well as the complicated international situation, in the context of emphasizing the need for judicial reform in Japan."

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Expanding Ties, Clinton Extends a Hand to Cuba

By Brian Knowlton International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The United States, seeking to ease the plight of the Cuban people without strengthening its government, will allow a greatly expanded flow of cash donations to Cuba, authorize food sales and permit easier travel to the Caribbean island, President Bill Clinton announced Tuesday.

But in announcing the changes, Mr. Clinton insisted that there would be no alleviating of the trade embargo that has been in effect since 1962.

These steps are designed to help the Cuban people without strengthening the Cuban government, the president said. "They are consistent with our policy of keeping pressure on the regime for democratic change — through the embargo and vigorous diplomatic

initiatives — while finding ways to reach out to the Cuban people through humanitarian efforts and help in developing civil society."

The moves, building on changes announced in March, will allow any American, and not just family members, to send cash to Cuban citizens and to certain nongovernmental organizations; permit the sale of food and agricultural products to church groups, private farmers and others, but not the government; authorize charter flights to Cuban cities other than Havana and from U.S. cities other than Miami, and make it easier for academics, athletes, scientists and others to take part in exchanges.

In addition, U.S. officials will seek to open direct mail service with Cuba.

And, in an echo of the so-called Ping-Pong diplomacy that helped break the ice of U.S.-Chinese

enmity in the early 1970s, the Baltimore Orioles baseball team will be permitted to play the Cuban national team, both in Cuba and in the United States, if agreement can be reached on arrangements.

[The Clinton administration's policy was greeted with a pointed official silence from the government of Fidel Castro. The New York Times reported from Havana, but some Cuban officials and economists said privately the measures would do little or nothing to ease the deep economic crisis here that many attribute to the U.S. trade embargo. "This is nothing surprising, just more of the same," a high-ranking official said.]

The administration rejected a proposal made in October by a bipartisan group of 15 senators, backed by three former secretaries of state, that Mr. Clinton

Saddam Appeals For Arab Uprising But, as Feud Deepens, Egypt Verges on Calling for His Ouster

By Douglas Jehl New York Times Service

CAIRO — President Saddam Hussein called on "the Arab nation" on Tuesday to back Iraq in its confrontation with the United States and to rise up against leaders who have not given his regime their full support.

The call was the latest step in a bitter spiral that has left Baghdad increasingly at odds with other Arab governments in the aftermath of the American-led air strikes on Iraq last month.

The appeal was made just hours after Egypt all but called for Mr. Saddam's ouster.

"Revolt, sons of the great Arab nation, against injustice and let your voices be heard," Mr. Saddam said in an Army Day speech broadcast by Al-Jazeera Television, an Arabic-language satellite channel based in Qatar that is viewed throughout the Arab world.

Egypt and most other Arab governments were plainly left uneasy by the four days of American and British air strikes that ended on Dec. 19 and that prompted demonstrations in Cairo and other Arab capitals. But in the weeks since, none of those governments have been willing to align themselves with Iraq, prompting Mr. Saddam to argue with increasing anger and frustration that their loyalties were misplaced.

In the broadcast Tuesday, he did not mention any Arab leaders by name. But he called on the Arab people to "correct the deviations of those who have deviated."

Mr. Saddam noted in particular that the aircraft that attacked Iraq had flown from Arab countries and from ships in Arab waters and that there were Western troops "in the land of the holy sites" — a reference to Saudi Arabia.

Since last week, Iraqi officials and newspapers have singled out Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, suggesting that he was little more than a stooge of the West because he did not stand up against the attacks.

In response, a commentary broadcast overnight on the Egyptian state radio added to the war of words by suggesting that the time had come for "the beginning of the end" for the Iraqi regime.

It included the harshest rhetoric that Egypt has directed against Iraq since the Gulf War in 1991, denouncing Mr. Sad-

dam by name as a murderer, a gangster and the "destroyer of Iraq."

"The Arab nation has never known, even in its worst periods of decadence, a leader worse than the dictator of Iraq, who committed the crime of invading Kuwait, which led to his Mother of Defeats," the Egyptian radio said.

As if to underscore those sentiments, Egypt's ambassador to Jordan was reported to have met there in recent days with leaders of the Iraqi National Accord, one of the opposition groups vowing to overthrow Mr. Saddam. And Egyptian television devoted much of a two-hour broadcast on Monday night to interviews with ordinary people, includ-

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Iraqi Fighters And U.S. Jets Clash in South

By Philip Shenon New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — In the first air duel between American and Iraqi jet fighters in more than six years, U.S. warplanes fired missiles at Iraqi jets over southern Iraq on Tuesday, and one of the Iraqi planes was reported to have crashed after it ran out of fuel.

Defense Department officials said that at least four air-to-air missiles were fired by the American jets — two U.S. Air Force F-15 strike aircraft and two U.S. Navy F-14 fighters — after the Iraqi planes repeatedly violated the no-flight zone over southern Iraq.

The Pentagon said there was no evidence to suggest that the American missiles hit any of about a dozen Iraqi MiG and Mirage fighters that breached the zone Tuesday.

The United States vowed later Tuesday that it would not back down from enforcing the no-flight zones.

"We will continue to enforce the no-

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SPEAKING OUT — Chee Soon Juan, leader of a small opposition party in Singapore, defying the police by giving a political speech without a license Tuesday, for the second time in a week. Page 5.

AGENDA

Iran Blames Rogue Agents for Killings

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian intelligence officers carried out recent killings of several dissident intellectuals and politicians in Tehran, the

Intelligence Ministry said Tuesday. "Irresponsible colleagues" who were "acting on their own" were responsible for the killings, the ministry was quoted by the official Iranian press agency, IRNA, as saying.

The ministry condemned the murders, which it said had been carried out by a network of agents working on behalf of foreign interests.

"The ministry has succeeded in identifying the network and arresting its members," it said.

Blaming Serbs, NATO General Says Kosovo Nears New War

By Joseph Fitchett International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Warning that Kosovo is headed toward a resumption of full-scale civil war in weeks, General Wesley Clark, the supreme allied commander in Europe, blames Serbia for escalating military tensions in the province and for undercutting chances for a political deal with the ethnic Albanian majority.

"The Serbs are violating their commitments to NATO," General Clark said. He accused Belgrade of deploying extra companies of regular troops, leaving heavy weapons in the hands of Serbian police officers who were supposed to revert to normal peacetime procedures and breaking other pledges given in October to avert all-out air strikes.

Kosovo risked spiraling out of control, he said, because of "the underlying dynamic, the fact that both sides are preparing for an outcome with no political accord — sharpening their claws and refining their tactics."

In the long run, he implied, the Serbian military presence would face Kosovo Albanians who "have to continue to struggle because they can't risk another catastrophe of falling under the political repression from Belgrade." He was referring to the 10 years since Kosovo's autonomy was withdrawn by the central government.

The thrust of his remarks, in a phone interview late Monday, added weight to recent suggestions that Clinton administration officials are starting to see the downfall of President Slobodan Milosevic as the precondition to real progress in Kosovo and elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia.

General Clark's prognosis was phrased more sharply than warnings from NATO officials last month after an outbreak of fighting and they contrasted somberly with the hope among Western officials last fall that the truce imposed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization would hold at least until spring.

His comments appeared to be an appeal to Belgrade for concessions to save

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JPY 110.520

America's 'Modern-Day Slavery' / Servants Living in Silent Despair

Behind Doors,
A Culture of
ExploitationBy William Branigan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Thousands of domestic servants are being brought into the United States from impoverished countries and then severely exploited by foreign employers, many of whom work for embassies and international organizations in the Washington area, according to human-rights groups, immigration attorneys and former domestics.

Despite occasional publicity about such cases in the past, the abuses have persisted with relative impunity and appear to be on the rise, the domestics' advocates and others interviewed by The Washington Post say.

A federal "worker exploitation task force" formed by Attorney General Janet Reno is investigating some of the worst alleged offenders as part of a broader crackdown on labor abuse. The task force, which includes members of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, the FBI, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Labor Department, is aimed at rooting out what Ms. Reno has called "the serious problem of modern-day slavery" in the United States.

But in concentrating their efforts on the most egregious cases involving the suspected illegal confinement of servants, federal agencies have skipped over others that fall short of that standard, even when they include apparent violations of federal labor, immigration and tax laws.

The domestic servants, most of them women from poor backgrounds in Africa, Asia and Latin America, are typically imported under a provision of immigration law that allows foreign diplomats, embassy employees and officials of organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and United Nations to bring in personal household workers with the understanding that the employers will abide by U.S. labor laws. There is, however, virtually no oversight into whether they comply.

The World Bank, the IMF and the United Nations say they cannot be expected to monitor their staff members' private lives. In any case, they say, few complaints have come to their attention.

Yet, over the years, hundreds of servants have run away from their employers to escape abusive treatment, excessive hours, low pay or no pay at all. Some have filed lawsuits in U.S. courts for back wages and damages.

Their cases illustrate the exploitation being alleged in Washington area homes: An Ethiopian woman who was brought to the United States in 1990 by an IMF official says she toiled for more than eight years in a Silver Spring, Maryland, apartment until she escaped in May. She says her employers forced her to work seven days a week, isolated her from other people and hit her if she complained.

Another Ethiopian says she received no pay for more than six years of work in the Rockville, Maryland, home of an Ethiopian-born couple who arranged for her to come to the United States on a tourist visa. She says her duties included caring for the couple's sick child on 24-hour call.

A nanny from the Philippines says three other Filipinos — her employers and a friend of theirs — arranged to bring her in fraudulently under a visa for servants of embassy employees, then put her to work in Fairfax, Virginia, for 41 cents an hour. For more than a year before she escaped, the nanny said, she had to work 16 hours a day and received only one day off during the entire period.

So far this decade, more than 30,000 domestics have been brought to the United States under special work visas. Many are treated equitably.

But among the others are some of the most exploited workers in the United States today, according to social workers, church groups and lawyers who have dealt with their cases. Behind the



Yesheharg Teferia's wages for over eight years of work amounted to less than 3 cents an hour.

An Ethiopian Woman's Ordeal

By William Branigan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Eyes downcast, staring at her hands, Yesheharg Teferia describes in soft, matter-of-fact tones the punishing conditions she says she endured as a "slave" in a Washington suburb.

The illiterate Ethiopian woman, who speaks no English and is uncertain of her age, was brought to the United States eight years ago by a staff member of the International Monetary Fund to work as a maid in his apartment in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her employer, also from Ethiopia, promised in a contract with Miss Teferia to pay her \$235 a week, provide medical care and abide by U.S. labor laws.

Instead, Miss Teferia says, she received a total of \$1,060 for more than eight years of work averaging about 90 hours a week — pay that came to less than 3 cents an hour. She says she was never given a day off, was ordered not to talk to people outside the family and was slapped and choked when she complained.

The slight, shy woman, whose elaborate neck and wrist tattoos evince her rural origins, finally ran away from her employer in May and was taken in by another Ethiopian family.

Aided by Mark Schaefer, a Washington lawyer who volunteered to represent her, she filed suit in October in U.S. District Court in Maryland, seeking more than \$900,000 in back pay and damages.

In his family's defense, the employer has argued that Miss

Teferia is owed nothing because she stayed as a "guest" in their home after he left the IMF in 1992 and her contract ran out. Mr. Schaefer said.

"I was not their guest," Miss Teferia said quietly. "I was not even their employee. I was their slave."

The employer and his wife did not respond to messages seeking comment for this article. After they were formally served with the lawsuit, they abruptly moved out of their apartment and disappeared. Mr. Schaefer said he would seek a default judgment against them, but held out little hope of recovering any money for Miss Teferia. She cannot afford to hire an investigator to track down the couple and their assets, and such expenses are not covered in Mr. Schaefer's pro bono work for her.

told her that if she fled their home, she would be arrested immediately because she is black.

"They essentially preyed on her ignorance," a source familiar with the case said. U.S. officials declined to discuss the matter because it is still under investigation.

According to the State Department, about 3,800 domestic servants come to the United States each year under two types of temporary employment visas to work for foreign diplomats or non-U.S. staff members of international organizations. The servants may be brought in from any country. About a quarter come from the Philippines.

Guidelines published by the World Bank and IMF say their staff members who wish to employ domestics — defined as ranging from butlers, valets and maids to gardeners, cooks and chauffeurs — must pay at least the minimum wage, allow two days off a week, pay Social Security and Medicare taxes, pay workers' compensation insurance and pay federal and state unemployment taxes. At the current minimum wage rates of \$6.15 an hour in Washington, and \$5.15 in Maryland and Virginia, domestics should receive \$1,066 a month for the standard 40-hour work week in the District of Columbia and \$892 a month in the suburbs.

"This all looks lovely on paper, but there's absolutely no monitoring" by the World Bank or IMF to insure that staff members meet their obligations, said Martha Honey, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington think tank that is mobilizing a campaign to protect the domestics' rights.

closed doors of homes ranging from modest apartments in Silver Spring to mansions in McLean, Virginia, many foreign servants live in silent despair, toiling long hours for low wages but too fearful, isolated or insecure about what will happen to them to complain or break free, human rights advocates and investigators say.

In part, the servants are hostage to intimidation by their employers, lack of knowledge about where to turn for help and the restrictions of their visas, which bar them from working for anyone else.

ILL LANN LEE, acting assistant attorney general for civil rights and co-chairman of Ms. Reno's task force, said federal investigators were looking for abuses "that are so severe they rise to a level of involuntary servitude."

Investigators do not yet know how widespread such abuses are, Mr. Lee added, but "there is anecdotal evidence that the problem may be larger than people have thought."

One FBI-led team is investigating a well-off Brazilian businessman and his wife who allegedly held an illiterate servant from their homeland in slave-like conditions for 19 years while she worked in their suburban Maryland home.

The servant, who is about 60, came to authorities' attention recently when she had to be hospitalized for treatment of a long-neglected stomach tumor. She told local social workers that she sometimes had to beg neighbors for food and clothing and was regularly beaten by the wife. She said the couple

U.S. Remains Hobbled
By Giant Snowstorm

NEW YORK — A storm that closed highways, businesses, schools and airports with waist-high snowdrifts in western New York added another six inches Tuesday and then began to weaken. But it left behind at least 89 deaths as it marched from the Plains across the Midwest into Ontario.

Airports around the United States were still having trouble accommodating passengers Tuesday, even in areas where the storm had long since ended. Stranded passengers at Detroit Metropolitan Airport received more bad news early Tuesday as Northwest Airlines canceled about 100 flights because it had trouble getting crews in. A foot (30 centimeters) of snow was on the ground in Detroit.

A Northwest spokesman in Minneapolis said the airline had canceled more than 1,100 flights since Saturday.

Near Buffalo, New York, part of Interstate 90 was closed Monday, and the last 60-mile stretch did not reopen until Tuesday morning.

The arctic blast began during the weekend with up to 2 feet of snow in places in the Midwest, and plunged the eastern two-thirds of the nation to record low temperatures.

Tuesday morning dawned as the coldest on record in Illinois, with a reading of 36 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (minus 38 centigrade) in Coopersville, 120 miles southwest of Chicago. The state's previous record of 35 below zero was set on Jan. 22, 1930, in Mount Carroll in northwestern Illinois.

Wind chills on the northern Plains measured 60 below zero.

Temperatures were in the teens across much of the South early Tuesday, with Meridian, Mississippi, hitting a record low for the date of 11 and New Orleans chilling to a record 20. Jackson, Tennessee, had a low of 6.

With temperatures in the teens in upstate South Carolina, which suffered an ice storm over the weekend, about 54,000 customers still had no electricity early Tuesday.

Many states struggled to clear roads on Monday as the workweek began.

In Indiana, where up to 22 inches fell on the northern counties, plows created roadside snowbanks higher than cars. Legislative leaders postponed the beginning of their 1999 session until at least Wednesday because of the travel problems.

Thousands of children were among those enjoying the fringe benefits of the storm, as schools were closed for a second day Tuesday in some states.

U.K.'s Big Mac Shortage Is No Small-Fry Deal

LONDON — McDonald's Corp. apologized Tuesday for running out of its Big Mac hamburgers after British fast-food lovers snatched their teeth into a two-for-one promotion.

"We expected the current 25th anniversary Big Mac offer to be popular," the world's largest restaurant chain said in full-page ads in several British tabloids. "However, the unprecedented demand has resulted in stock shortages in some of our restaurants, for which we sincerely apologize."

Tabloids carried front-page reports of furious customers who left empty-handed after descending on McDonald's restaurants in droves.

The Daily Star said "a near-riot erupted" in Leigh, near Liverpool, when a group of executives "went berserk" after being denied their free Big Macs.

Record Warmth
In West Europe

PARIS — Much of Western Europe basked Tuesday in spring-like weather with temperatures climbing to record levels, but the unseasonable warmth raised concern among farmers and left ski resort owners praying for snow.

The temperature in the French capital reached a record 16 degrees centigrade (61 Fahrenheit) in the early afternoon, 10 degrees above the normal high.

In southern France, the temperature reached 23 degrees (73 Fahrenheit) in some regions.

In the Netherlands, a record 16.2 degrees (61 Fahrenheit) was registered in the south, the weather service said.

Record temperatures also were recorded in southern Germany at 16.2 degrees (61 Fahrenheit). Berlin reached a high of 14 (57 Fahrenheit).

Ski resorts, however, were forced to offer customers other activities for lack of snow, and farmers and winemakers were fearful that the unseasonably mild weather would affect their crops.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Egypt Terrorist Alert

CAIRO (AFP) — The U.S. Embassy here warned Tuesday against possible attacks on U.S. targets in Egypt and urged Americans to be vigilant, maintain a low profile and treat unfamiliar mail with suspicion.

"The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has received reliable information that extremist elements may be planning imminent, unspecified attacks against U.S. interests in Egypt," it said.

A Hungarian rail strike over wage demands continued for a second day Tuesday, causing slight disruption on domestic and international services, management and unions said. (AFP)

Ash and cinders were seen coming out of Mount Etna on Sicily after intense activity was registered. (AFP)

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.



North America: Europe turning much colder. Dry and chilly in New York. Europe turning much colder. Dry and chilly in New York. Europe turning much colder. Dry and chilly in New York.

City	Today	Low	High	Today	Low	High
Algeria	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Amman	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Baghdad	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Bangkok	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Bombay	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Buenos Aires	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Calcutta	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Caracas	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Chengdu	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Chongqing	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Colombo	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Dhaka	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Hankow	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Hong Kong	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Kobe	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
London	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Manila	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Medan	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Mei Shui	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Osaka	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Shanghai	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Singapore	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Sourabaya	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Taipei	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Tokyo	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10
Yokohama	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10	10/10

Legend: s=sunny, p=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=snow, dr=drizzle, r=rain, f=fog, M=moon, W=wind.

More Than 200 Sierra Leone Rebels
Reported Killed Near the Capital

Agence France-Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Nigerian troops killed more than 200 Sierra Leonean rebels in two days of fighting 17 kilometers east of Freetown, the capital, civilian witnesses said Tuesday.

They said the clashes began Sunday with an attack on the town of Hastings and then spread to Jui, where Nigerian infantry troops are based. They are the leading part of an international peacekeeping force, known as Ecomog, that supports the Sierra Leonean government.

The peacekeeping force was reinforced by members of the pro-government village-based militiamen calls *kamajors*, who are deployed in strength in Jui.

Witnesses said extensive bombardments by the peacekeeping force cut deep into the ranks of the rebels, preventing them from retreating. Ecomog troops from Freetown intercepted fleeing civilians at a nearby junction and advised them to return home and remain indoors.

A witness said the rebels had split into two groups after the first attack at Hastings: One comprised renegade soldiers from the Sierra Leonean Army and the other insurgents who belong to the Revolutionary United Front.

Heavily armed troops and *kamajor* hunters are continuing to comb the surrounding hills, caves and the bush for rebels, the witnesses said.

The Nigerian-led force was expecting reinforcements after promises from two countries that they would send in contingents shortly to help deal with the rebels.

State radio announced that a military delegation from Mali was due to arrive in the capital next week to meet with commanders of the intervention force.

For several months, Ecomog has made up pleas to West African neighbors of Sierra Leone to deliver on promises of military backup.

"Our soldiers are soldiers of peace and they are ready to be by your side," President Alpha Omar Konare of Mali said Monday after a meeting in Bamako with President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone.

At an emergency meeting on Sierra Leone's rebellion in Abidjan last week, the Economic Community of West African States said Mali was ready to send 400 reinforcements and Gambia 100.

After recent rebel attacks near Freetown, about 5,000 Nigerian soldiers were sent in to bolster security. Nigerian reinforcements have been deployed in other areas that are deemed rebel targets.

Meanwhile, a special United Nations envoy, Francis Okello, toured the eastern and southern cities of Kenema and Bo on Monday to assess security following the evacuation last week of UN military observers from the area.

DEATH NOTICE

George W. Herald, his children Stefan and Patricia and all his family have deep regrets in announcing the death of:

Martie A. Herald
(née Dubois), who, at age 76,
passed away in Paris on January 1st,
1999 after a brief illness. Cremation
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THE AMERICAS

An Instant Top-Tier Prospect Shakes Up 2000 Race

By Dan Balz
and David S. Broder
Washington Post Service

Elizabeth Dole giving a farewell after she resigned as Red Cross president.

WASHINGTON — Elizabeth Dole has signaled interest in a presidential candidacy in 2000, and political analysts say her decision could reshape the contest for the Republican nomination.

"The Red Cross has been a glorious mission field, but I believe there may be other duties yet to fill," Mrs. Dole told employees Monday as she stepped down as president of the American Red Cross.

In an interview after her speech, she insisted, "I have not made a decision."

But she said she would explore the practicalities of seeking the presidency with "the many people who have urged me to run."

Close associates said there was a strong chance that Mrs. Dole, the wife of former Senator Bob Dole, the 1996 Republican nominee for president, would establish a presidential exploratory committee within the next several weeks, and they predicted that it would lead to a full-fledged candidacy.

They said the timing of her departure from the Red Cross was dictated in part by the enormous fund-raising demands involved in a presidential campaign and the realization that she must start soon to be competitive.

Republican and Democratic analysts said Mrs. Dole, 62, a Harvard Law School graduate who held two cabinet

posts in Republican administrations, would enter the presidential campaign in the top tier of Republican candidates, if she decides to run.

They noted that Mrs. Dole, who gained political experience in her husband's three national campaigns, appealed to various potential constituencies, including Christian conservatives, the party establishment and some members of the business community.

Some of her close associates said that as the first serious female candidate for president, she would have unique appeal. Asked if she thought the country was ready to give serious consideration to a woman running for president, Mrs. Dole said, "Yes, I do."

A Democratic pollster, Celinda Lake, said: "I think she'd be formidable. The battleground in 2000 is going to be women voters. Not many people noticed it, but in the last election, Republicans reduced the gender gap by picking up support among married moms and suburban women. And she will have tremendous appeal to those kinds of women."

Linda DiVall, a Republican pollster who met with Mrs. Dole after her announcement, said that she was "not involved" professionally in any way but that Mrs. Dole's actions Monday had made it very clear that she was ready to run for president.

"She changes the entire dynamics of the primary," Ms. DiVall said. "She

becomes an immediate top-tier candidate along with Governor Bush."

George W. Bush, the governor of Texas and son of former President George Bush, is considered to be one of the strongest potential Republican candidates.

"There's no question she can raise the money," Ms. DiVall said. "She's raised \$3.5 billion for the Red Cross. And many women will want to be involved in this effort."

But other Republican analysts said that Mrs. Dole would face significant obstacles. She could not count on support from many of the party leaders and activists who supported her husband, as well as others in putting together organizations in the first states that select delegates to the party's nominating convention, such as Iowa and New Hampshire, and has to establish a clearer political identity.

Until now, Mrs. Dole has been seen more as a prospective vice presidential candidate in 2000, and some analysts said they believed that still might be her ultimate goal. But associates of Mrs. Dole said she would run to win the presidential nomination if she decided to become a candidate.

Mrs. Dole's departure from the Red Cross came hours before Senator Robert Smith of New Hampshire became the first Republican to file a formal presidential campaign committee, by passing the initial step of an exploratory

committee. "Americans want character and integrity from their leaders," said Mr. Smith, who is considered a long-shot candidate.

With others readying their presidential campaigns, analysts and strategists agreed Monday that a Dole candidacy would scramble expectations about the contest for the Republican nomination. But they differed on who might be hurt the most if she runs.

Some said that Mr. Bush, who has been the clear leader in early polls, would feel the impact immediately because Mr. Dole also brings a well-known name and some celebrity appeal to the contest.

Others said such Republican hopefuls as the magazine publisher Steve Forbes, former Vice President Dan Quayle, Senator John McCain of Arizona and former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who will establish an exploratory committee on Friday, would be affected more by her entry.

Missouri Senator to Stay Out

Senator John Ashcroft, Republican of Missouri, a favorite of Christian conservatives who spent much of 1998 preparing a White House bid, said Tuesday that he would not after all run for the presidency in 2000. Reuters reported from Springfield, Missouri.

In a speech to supporters, Mr. Ashcroft said he would instead seek reelection to the Senate in 2000.

First Tobacco, Now Guns: Lawyers Reset Sights

By David Segal
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — For the past four years, a team of about 60 American law firms has rented a suite of offices in central New Orleans and made it the headquarters for a legal assault against the tobacco industry. Last week, the offices got a makeover for a new fight — this time against the gun industry.

Deploying the same tactics it brought to the tobacco wars, the legal collective known as the Castano Group is rearming its sights, hoping to earn millions in fees by suing gunmakers on behalf of cities across the United States.

The Castano Group is the brainchild of Wendell Gauthier, a lawyer specializing in mass injury cases who made the first of several fortunes representing victims of hotel fires and plane crashes.

In 1994, he persuaded a group of 60 firms to contribute \$100,000 each to finance a war room to coordinate lawsuits against the tobacco industry. The suits were based on the then-novel theory that the cigarette companies should

pay for the cost incurred by smokers to treat their addiction.

Mr. Gauthier is now asking the same group and other firms to contribute another \$100,000 for the gun litigation. About 40 firms have accepted so far, and others are expected to join soon, said John Coale, a Washington lawyer who is part of the group.

Gun manufacturers, meanwhile, are on the verge of hiring corporate defense firms capable of fending off a carefully orchestrated legal attack on a national scale.

The virtually inevitable brawl over the gun business will very likely feature many of the same combatants and strategies that figured in the epic confrontation over tobacco.

"It's uncanny," said Stanley Chesley, a Cincinnati lawyer who is part of the Castano Group, "but we just keep running into the same people in this business."

In October, New Orleans became the first city to file a suit against gunmakers, demanding redress for the cost of responding to shootings and alleging that companies such as Glock Inc. and Smith

& Wesson Corp. failed to install safety devices that would prevent children and unauthorized users from firing guns.

Lawyers from the Castano Group, which takes its name from an early tobacco plaintiff, are handling the case on behalf of the city.

Chicago followed with its own suit in November, offering other liability theories, and more cities are expected to file soon. A variety of private actions are in the works as well.

For critics of the cigarette settlement, the tobacco lawyers' new onslaught fulfills an unhappy prophecy. Well before cigarette makers agreed in November to pay more than \$200 billion over 25 years to settle lawsuits brought by state attorneys general, Wall Street analysts and others predicted that the money ultimately would fund new lunges at other industries.

The Castano team has yet to profit from the tobacco litigation, because it was not party to the actions by the attorneys general and its private class actions are still pending. Still, Castano lawyers such as Mr. Coale expect a tobacco payday and are unabashed about

what they will do with the money.

"People kept saying that we would go after the alcohol or fast-food industries next," Mr. Coale said. "But we'd never do that. We enjoy liquor and meat too much."

Meanwhile, several lawyers who scored big in the suits filed by the attorneys general are eyeing the gun issue. For instance, Robert Kerrigan's eight-person firm in Pensacola, Florida, pocketed \$200 million for its work on the tobacco settlement — part of a record-setting \$3.4 billion in fees shared by several Florida law firms. He and his partners were now considering whether to sue gunmakers.

"I know the business community considers us a bunch of vultures who just got done with one corpse and are looking for another," Mr. Kerrigan said. "But the truth is that tobacco had to pay in no small measure because of what we did."

Whether the gun litigation turns out to be the next legal gold rush is an open question. Gunmakers are not nearly as wealthy as the cigarette makers, taking in about \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year, a small fraction of the big tobacco companies' yearly revenue.

Bob Ricker of the American Shooting Sports Council, a trade association for gunmakers, vowed that his members would not be intimidated into an out-of-court settlement, regardless of how many cities line up against them. "We'll be able to show that what these lawyers are actually after is money," he said.

Surgery With Magnets

New Technique Allows Doctors to Manipulate Instruments and Dispense With Use of Needles

By Holcomb B. Noble
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A team led by a Missouri neurosurgeon has performed the first surgery on a human using superconducting magnets to direct a surgical instrument into the brain.

The technique allows surgeons to move around corners or on a curved path, to reach and perform a biopsy on a tumor, and eliminates the past requirement — and danger — of pushing a needle through important areas of the brain.

Dr. Ralph Dacey, head of neurosurgery at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, said the new magnetic-surgery system is less invasive and should prove safer than traditional methods. It combines several high-technology devices — computers, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), live X-rays, and small superconducting magnets to place surgical instruments or medication in precisely the right spot without disturbing sensitive areas nearby.

Specialists said the system raised the potential of developing a variety of new medical treatments for illnesses such as Parkinson's disease and other motor disorders centered in the brain, cancer there and elsewhere in the body, and heart disease.

Until now, though surgeons have been able to use images of the brain to locate a tumor, they have generally had to push a needle manually toward a tumor through whatever vital section lay in the pathway.

With the aid of a series of MRI images of the patient's brain, Dr. Dacey and his team mapped out the least invasive route to the tumor and created computerized instructions that would direct a sharp plastic surgical instrument to the right place. The team then placed the patient's head inside a frame and within three sets of the superconducting magnets.

Dr. Dacey drilled an opening through the patient's skull to the edge of the brain. Sitting at the computer console, he instructed the magnetic system to move a plastic catheter, somewhat narrower than a straw, into the brain. Another, tiny magnet was inside the catheter.

Preprogrammed electronic impulses from the computer set up a sequence of magnetic fields around the head to guide the tiny magnet on course to the tumor.

When the catheter reached the tumor, he gently pulled it with the guidewire, leaving the hollow catheter in place. Then, he moved the surgical tool in through the catheter to cut out tissue samples from the tumor.

POLITICAL NOTES

Democratic Lock on California

LOS ANGELES — A new era in California politics has started as Gray Davis, a veteran state official known for being more bland than bold, took the oath to be governor and became the first Democrat in 16 years to hold the nationally influential office.

In an inaugural that reflected his tempered, no-frills political style, Mr. Davis pledged foremost to revitalize the state's public schools, which were once the envy of the nation. He also vowed to lead California past the emotional battles over affirmative action and immigration that have riven the state, saying, "You can finally bring down the curtain on the politics of division." The remark drew a standing ovation and was clearly aimed at the man he is replacing, Pete Wilson, a two-term Republican.

"I pledge to you an administration that is at once tough-minded and big-hearted," Mr. Davis said in his address, broadcast live across the state Monday. "We will restore a sense of decency and compassion to government."

Mr. Davis, 56, is taking office with advantages many other elected officials wish they had: His easy victory in November over Dan Lungren, the state attorney general, gives him a strong mandate. His party now controls both houses of the California legislature and virtually all other offices in the state, a sweep not seen here since the late 1950s. The Californian economy is in good shape, and Mr. Davis has great support among Latino voters, the fastest-growing segment of the state electorate. (WP)

Mrs. Ventura, Reluctant Celebrity

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — There is, of course, the matter of the silverware. What would happen, frets the wife of the new governor of Minnesota, "if there is some queen and

king of Sweden who come here? How do you address these people? What fork or knife do I pick up first?"

It is a potential society page scandal, a first lady faux pas of the first degree, and Terry Ventura knows it.

But it has been part of the baggage as her husband, Jesse (The Body) Ventura, the former professional wrestler, has become the most unlikely political star in America. Mr. Ventura was sworn in Monday as the 37th governor of Minnesota. In the days leading up to the inauguration, his wife was busy trying to calm her butterflies.

"Basically, I have just been reading water to make sure I don't drown for the last two months," she said before the inauguration. To a television interviewer, she said: "I'll be the one tripping down the stairs in her formal gown."

It is not that she does not appreciate the fact that her husband, a man whose early career involved wearing a pink feather boa and butting heads with Hulk Hogan, managed to upend the stalwart Republican and Democratic candidates with his raucous third-party insurgency. It is just that this extraordinary chapter in her husband's celebrity forces her to become a celebrity, too.

"Somehow, our victory turned into this giant Frankenstein monster rampaging through the village," Mrs. Ventura said. "My phone is ringing off the hook. They have all these expectations. They want me to give speeches. Well, the last time I gave a speech I was at my sister's wedding. I was the maid of honor, and I said: 'Congratulations. Have a great life.'"

Quote/Unquote

Vice President Al Gore on bureaucracy: "If we took the same approach to Christmas songs that we take to the language of federal rules and regulations, instead of 'Silent Night,' we'd be singing about 'noise-mitigated post-day-light time intervals.'"

Away From Politics

• The Nevada state police arrested a man they believe is the sniper who fired Monday at vehicles on Interstate 80 between Reno and the California state line, wounding one man. (AP)

• The death of a woman whose son is charged in the fatal beating of a homosexual college student is being investigated as a possible murder, authorities in Laramie, Wyoming, said.

Preliminary autopsy results revealed that Cindy Thompson Dixon, whose body was found on a road near Laramie, died of hypothermia. Mrs. Dixon, 40, was the mother of Russell Henderson, who is awaiting trial in the Oct. 7 beating of Matthew Shepard, who later died. (AP)

• FBI agents rescued the son of a wealthy Taiwanese businessman who was kidnapped Dec. 15 and held for

\$1.5 million ransom. Kuan Nan Chen, 17, was found in a house near his home in San Marino, California. (LAT)

• The U.S. Department of Agriculture has agreed to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to settle a lawsuit brought by thousands of black farmers who say the department discriminated against them by denying them loans and other subsidies. (NYT)

U.S. Postpones GPS Navigation

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government delayed on Tuesday its planned start of a \$1 billion satellite-based airplane navigation system after a contractor determined that the designing of software for it was taking longer than expected.

The first phase of the Wide Area Augmentation System was to have entered service in July. Instead, the Federal Aviation Administration said the date had been pushed back 14 months to September 2000.

The system will allow planes to navigate using the Global Positioning System satellite network instead of ground-based radio signals. The technology is needed to correct the standard GPS signals, which are purposely degraded by the military, to provide the accuracy, integrity and reliability needed for civil aviation navigation. A satellite-based system will allow the FAA to phase out its costly network of ground-based navigational aids.

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U.S. Met Secretly With Colombia Rebels

By Douglas Farah
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The first face-to-face meetings by American officials with leaders of Colombia's largest Marxist guerrilla organization late last month were part of an effort to breathe life into the nascent peace process, according to Colombian and U.S. officials.

The secret meetings represent a sharp change in U.S. policy toward the hemisphere's longest-running insurgency. They were held for two days in San Juan, Costa Rica, between mid-level State Department officials and senior leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

Washington has officially regarded the group as a terrorist organization that makes much of its money from protecting drug traffickers and from kidnapping and extortion.

Among people possibly being held captive by the group are three American missionaries who were kidnapped in 1994 and remain unaccounted for. The State Department had said previously that it would not talk to the rebels until the missionaries were released or their bodies were turned over to their families.

"One of our primary reasons for holding the meetings was to press them on the Americans," a State Department official said. "We decided it was better to talk to them and lay out our position than to have no contact. They understand we will have serious problems with them if they don't give us answers on the kidnapped Americans."

The other major problem is the rebel group's long-standing practice of protecting cocaine and heroin laboratories, a role that earns the group millions of dollars a year.

Sources said the rebels acknowledged some participation in the drug trade but promised to end it if the peace process were successful and the Colombian government channeled development aid to areas under guerrilla control.

The meetings were reported in the Colombian press over the weekend as the government of President Andres Pastrana struggled to build support for its peace initiative with the guerrillas.

On Thursday, Mr. Pastrana and the rebel high command are scheduled to begin peace talks in the remote town of San Vicente del Caguan.

Earlier talks have produced few results, and over the past two years the rebel group has almost doubled in size, to 15,000, bought new weapons and communications gear and dealt the Colombian army a number of defeats.

To induce the rebels to talk, Mr. Pastrana took the controversial step of withdrawing all government forces from an area the size of Switzerland to create a demilitarized zone in which the rebel leaders would feel safe.

The State Department spokesman, James Rubin, said the group's designation as a terrorist organization did not preclude the United States from talking to the insurgents "or any other foreign terrorist organization if we determine that such a meeting is consistent with our interests, including bringing an end to Colombia's long-running civil conflict and to the terrorist attacks that accompany it."

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EUROPE

Bonn Cries 'Slander' On Citizenship Reform

Fight Shapes Up Around Opposition Petition

BERLIN — Pledging not to be deterred by opposition "slander," the government announced Tuesday that it would counter a petition drive against its planned citizenship law reforms with an information campaign of its own.

"We're sticking with our intention and think that the law will be all ready by summer," said Cornelia Sonntag-Wolgast, parliamentary state secretary in the Interior Ministry. An Interior Ministry spokeswoman, Kerstin Kiessler, said a first draft of the legislation had been completed and would

be taken up early this year by the cabinet.

Miss Sonntag-Wolgast accused the conservative parties, which moved into the opposition with the September election of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, of "slander" for suggesting that making it easier for foreigners to obtain German citizenship would lead to more violence and terrorism in Germany.

"There will be a majority among the public if we argue properly and don't indulge in a form of scare-mongering," she said in an interview with Suedfunk broadcasting.

Jewish officials in Germany accused conservatives on Tuesday of whipping up racist sentiment.

Michel Friedman, a leader of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said the Christian Democrats were acting in a reckless manner by preparing a petition drive against the plan.

"There is an extraordinary danger with this," he said in an interview with the Berlin newspaper Tagesspiegel. "It's populist and it's politically irresponsible," he said in an excerpt, made public before publication Wednesday. "It's going to awaken voices in this country that we don't want."

The government plans to relax nationality law, which is based on bloodline, not place of birth, to make it easier for foreigners to become Germans and still keep their original citizenship.

But many conservatives contend that the revision would give special privileges to foreigners and could lead to potentially dangerous divided loyalties.

The chairman of the opposition Christian Democratic Union, Wolfgang Schäuble said on German television Monday night that dual citizenship would endanger the integration of foreigners in Germany, not promote it.

Also, he said, it would lead to considerably greater immigration.

Marieluise Beck, the government's commissioner for foreigner affairs, attacked the planners of the petition campaign, which is to begin on Jan. 24. "They are clearly not above unsettling and whipping up the public," she said.

The commissioner accused the Christian Democrats and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union, of trying to incite the public against the reforms to raise their own profile.

She said the government would counter with a campaign explaining the proposed revision of the law.

Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer accused the conservatives of "carrying out a power struggle on the backs of foreign fellow residents."

Even some Christian Democrats criticized the conservatives' petition plan.

The chairman of the party's social policy committee, Rainer Eppelmann, told the Berliner Zeitung newspaper that a petition drive would make sense only if it led to a broad and substantive debate. He added he hoped "that along with that emotions will be kept in check."

(AP, Reuters)

An Interfaith Group Set to Meet in Paris Leaves Catholics Out

PARIS — Christian and Jewish religious leaders in France are due to attend a singular interfaith meeting at the central Paris mosque next month, a senior Islamic official said Tuesday.

The image of clerical harmony was tarnished, however, when the Protestant minister due to attend the talks said ties were strained between his church and Roman Catholics, France's majority religion whose representatives were not invited.

"This will be the first structured meeting of its kind," said Hocine Rais, who is responsible for cultural affairs at the mosque.

French Muslim leaders have attended interfaith meetings before, but Mr. Rais said the mosque did not traditionally organize functions on the premises involving non-Muslims. He said the move demonstrated the desire of French Muslim leaders to have dialogue with clerics of other religions.

"The prophet Mohammed invited Christians to pray with him in his day, and we all descend from our common father, Abraham," Mr. Rais said.

Islam is France's second most popular religion after Catholicism, practiced by more than 5 million Muslims, many of whom emigrated from northern Africa.

The clerics said they would hold six debates on the Bible and the Koran in a Protestant church, a Jewish synagogue and the main Paris mosque.

Asked why no Catholics would take part in the debates, a Protestant minister, Alain Houziaux, hinted that a theological dispute had cooled relations between the churches. "This is a debate between Christians, Muslims and Jews," he said. "I represent the Christians."

Rabbi Daniel Farhi suggested that Catholic priests prominent in existing interfaith dialogues should be invited.

Over 80 percent of France's 60 million inhabitants are nominally Catholic. There are about 2 million Protestants and 750,000 Jews in France.



French soldiers distributing kerosene near Sarajevo to heat a refugee center for ethnic Albanians from Kosovo.

KOSOVO: NATO General Says War Is Near

Continued from Page 1

the political talks on autonomy for Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of the population. In effect, he said that the burden now was on the Serbs to devise reassurances capable of inducing the ethnic Albanians to take a chance on autonomy rather than fight on for independence.

His unusually blunt accusations about Serbian behavior, which he might have muffled to protect his relations with Mr. Milosevic, appeared intended to dispel any impressions that both sides were more or less equally to blame for the deteriorating climate in Kosovo.

Acknowledging that separatist guerrillas have also been on the offensive, General Clark said, "You have to look at the problem in its entirety, meaning that 10 years ago when Belgrade took away their autonomy, that plunged the place into a cycle of repression breeding resistance and being met with vastly excessive reaction" by Serbian forces.

Since NATO has no mandate for action against the Kosovo Liberation Army of ethnic Albanian separatists, General Clark's comments were obviously directed at Belgrade. He left the impression that Serbia risks losing its authority completely if its continued use of force undermines the prospects for a compromise based on autonomy.

Without directly threatening air strikes, General Clark said that NATO had made military preparations designed to ensure that Kosovo did not return to what he called "the village burning" and other acts of large-scale violence that marked a Serbian military offensive last year.

But a U.S. plan offering Kosovo autonomy — what another U.S. official described as "demonstrable self-government" similar to that enjoyed by Montenegro, which is also part of Serbia

— seems so far to be going nowhere because it falls short of what Kosovo separatists want and concedes too much to be acceptable to Belgrade hard-liners.

Momentum on this core issue cannot be expected to emerge from the efforts of monitors sent by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who provide what General Clark called "tactical mediation and much greater visibility into specific situations."

The monitors opened an investigation Tuesday into a possible mass grave near Urosevac, about 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of the regional capital, Pristina. It was described by an organization spokesman as "allegedly containing the bodies of 11 women and children who were apparently killed in the summer."

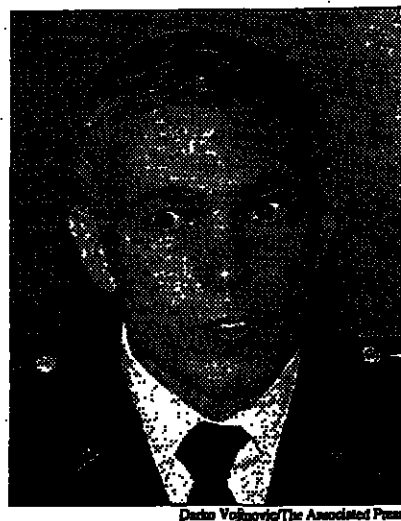
Separatists have said that the victims were ethnic Albanians killed by Serbs.

In coming months, the unarmed verifiers could find themselves at risk, and General Clark underlined NATO's determination to protect them — initially, with a 2,000-strong extraction force commanded and largely manned by France.

Belgrade has warned that any rescue mission will be treated as an invasion, causing some concern in Paris that NATO's involvement in Kosovo might draw French troops into battle against the Serbs, long allies of Paris.

General Clark visited Paris on Monday to reassure Defense Minister Alain Richard that the extraction force was meant to handle rescues, not a major assault — for which NATO would launch its own countermeasures.

French officials said that General Clark also used his trip to take issue with remarks last week in which Mr. Richard blamed the Kosovo Liberation Army for destabilizing the province. France has been more reluctant than the United States or Britain to confront Mr. Milosevic over Kosovo.



General Wesley Clark, the supreme allied commander in Europe.

A new tone emerged in the Paris talks, a French official said, in which the Milosevic regime was characterized as "the instability machine in Belgrade."

Attitudes toward Mr. Milosevic appear to be altering fundamentally in both Washington and London, where "he used to be seen as disagreeable but useful in getting things done and now he is seen as the source of all the problems," according to Jonathan Eyal, research director at the Royal United Services Institute in London.

The view that U.S. efforts should be focused on isolating Mr. Milosevic and funneling help to his opponents in Serbia and elsewhere has become "widespread, but not yet a consensus" in the Clinton administration, a State Department official said Tuesday by phone.

But, sounding skeptical about the imminence of a real shift in U.S. policy, Morton Abramowitz, a former State Department official, said: "So far, I think it's mostly rhetoric to disguise our frustration."

BRIEFLY

Politician Targeted For Aiding Terrorist

FRANKFURT — Prosecutors on Tuesday said they wanted to ask the European Parliament to lift the immunity of a German member after his admission that he had helped a terrorist suspect hide out for years in France.

Job Tilmann, a Frankfurt prosecutor, said his office first had to interview the terrorist suspect, Hans-Joachim Klein, about who had helped him flee the country and hide before requesting that Daniel Cohn-Bendit's immunity be lifted.

Mr. Klein was arrested in France in September, and Mr. Tilmann said an official response to Germany's request for extradition should come soon.

Mr. Klein is wanted in connection with the 1975 OPEC conference attack in Vienna in which 70 people were taken hostage and three people killed. Orders for the attack are believed to have come from the Cold War terrorist RIch Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos, who is now in a French jail serving a life term for a triple murder in another case.

After Mr. Klein's arrest, Mr. Cohn-Bendit, a prominent Greens party member in Frankfurt, publicly admitted having known of his whereabouts. He said that he and others had provided Mr. Klein financial support because Mr. Klein had renounced terrorism years ago.

Yeltsin Planning State Visit to Paris

PARIS — President Boris Yeltsin of Russia will come to France on Jan. 28 for a two-day visit, the French Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

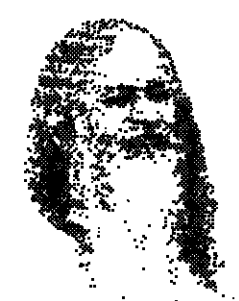
The trip will be Mr. Yeltsin's first state visit abroad since he began experiencing serious health problems in Kazakhstan two months ago. He was rushed back to Moscow and has since canceled several overseas trips.

Serb Designate Lacks Support

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia — The prime minister-designate of Bosnia's Serb republic suffered a setback Tuesday when leaders of the Western-leaning Sloga coalition refused to support him.

The outcome of a meeting between presidents of the three main Sloga parties makes it increasingly unlikely that Branko Milijus will win sufficient parliamentary backing to form a new government in the Serb entity following elections in September, analysts said. (Reuters)

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Iraq Conflict Raises An Alarm for Every Nation
The Council of Supreme Intelligence of Maharishi's Global Administration through Natural Law is raising an alarm: a conflict like that between Iraq and the United States and United Kingdom can happen to any nation at any time. Any nation at any time could try to destroy any other nation, and the United Nations will be powerless to resolve the situation. And it is possible for even a small nation to become a thorn for the whole family of nations.

Situations like that in Iraq have happened before and they will happen again. We therefore propose that every government should take steps to prevent the birth of any enemy to their nation and be free from fear by raising their nation to invincibility.

Membership in Maharishi's Global Administration Through Natural Law
To achieve this goal, the Council of Supreme Intelligence is inviting every country to be-

Offer of Invincibility To Every Nation

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come a member of Maharishi's Global Administration through Natural Law. This membership will be as effective for every nation as membership in the United Nations has been ineffective.

Maharishi's Global Administration through Natural Law has a prevention-oriented approach to invincibility which utilizes the nourishing power of Natural Law—the holistic intelligence of Nature—which is the administrator of the whole universe.

Experts in Yogic Flying To Create an Integrated, Invincible National Consciousness

The United Nations charges every government money to be a member. Membership in Maharishi's Global Administration through Natural Law is not through paying a membership fee, but is through creating integrated national consciousness by establishing a group or groups of Yogic Flyers. These groups of Yogic Flyers will maintain coherence in collective consciousness disallowing any neighbor or distant country to become poisonous to the nation.

This approach is very simple to implement and can be achieved within four months. A group of Yogic Flyers has the ability to enliven the support of the invincible power of Natural Law for the nation, and avert the birth of an enemy. This effect can be created by a

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Taking Recourse to Higher Intelligence

Why do the UN's efforts always fail, as in the present conflict in Iraq? Because they do not have the support of higher intelligence, so whatever is done on the level of human intelligence does not display the total nourishing power of Natural Law and therefore results are not long lasting.

The present situation in Iraq should be an alarm for every country. Every nation should follow the maxim: "Avert the danger which has not yet come."

The way to accomplish this is to take recourse to higher intelligence—the holistic intelligence of Natural Law—by establishing a group of experts in Yogic Flying in any area of society.

When a spark falls on wet grass it is extinguished; when it falls on dry grass, a conflagration

begins. The choice is there for every nation now: any government can create a nation that is secure from fires of war and is invincible through the support of the nourishing power of Natural Law, or it can remain in a state of constant uncertainty.

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Congo Rebels End Squabbles, They Say

GOMA, Democratic Republic of the Congo — The main rebel group fighting to overthrow President Laurent Kabila said Tuesday that it had patched up its internal differences and would now concentrate on winning the war.

Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, president of the Congolese Rally for Democracy, said his group had resolved its rifts after meeting with officials from its allies, Rwanda and Uganda.

"The errors which were made are in the process of being corrected," he said after the talks in the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

Rebel officials have recently reported divisions in their group, culminating in a New Year's Eve broadcast by Mr. dia

Wamba being cut short by rivals after he said the group risked being taken hostage by the "selfish ends of power for power's sake."

"The misunderstanding has been cleared, and we are going to resume as usual, confidently, and keep battling as before," Mr. dia Wamba said.

The Congolese Rally for Democracy began its rebellion in August and has made sweeping gains in the east of the country.

Officials say the movement is split between the founders and those who have come forward more recently, and also between former allies of Mr. Kabila and those who backed Mobutu Sese Seko, whom Mr. Kabila deposed in 1997.

But Mr. dia Wamba played down the

differences, saying that the party would reopen its 28-member assembly in the eastern town of Goma on Wednesday and that the decision-making body was likely to reshuffle its leadership and expand its base.

Mr. Kabila has failed to end the rebellion despite assistance from Angola, Zimbabwe, Chad and Namibia.

On Monday, a military spokesman, Leon Kasonga, said government troops and their allies had retaken the Lake Tanganyika port of Moba, the eastern town of Nyunzu and the northwestern town of Businga in a major push against rebel forces. But Mr. dia Wamba and rebel commanders in Goma refuted the claims, although they have acknowledged the loss of Businga.

Border Gunmen Kill 4 Russian Policemen

MOSCOW — Four Russian policemen were killed Tuesday by unidentified gunmen near the breakaway republic of Chechnya, officials said.

The officers were killed in Ingushetia, near the border with Chechnya, where the assailants fled after the attack, police officials said, according to Russian news agencies.

Since the end of a 1994-96 independence war with Russia, Chechnya has remained restive, roamed by numerous gangs involved in kidnapping and other crime. Violence has often spilled into neighboring Russian regions.

In other developments, authorities in Chechnya arrested a group of militants suspected of carrying out a wave of kidnappings, a news agency reported Tuesday.

The 12 suspects were arrested Monday night. Policemen also seized numerous weapons and ammunition, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

Sharipud Tsaryev, a deputy chief of Chechnya's anti-abduction squad, said the arrested men had allegedly kidnapped a 13-year old boy in the Chechen capital, Grozny. The boy is still missing.

The government of President Aslan Maskhadov has failed to stem a wave of kidnappings and other crime that has swept Chechnya since Russian troops withdrew in the fall of 1996.

Kenyan Is Suspect In Tourist's Murder

NAIROBI — A second suspect was charged Tuesday with the murder of a British tourist, Julie Ward, in a southwestern Kenyan wildlife sanctuary a decade ago.

David Kadula ole Nchoko, 28, a former clerk at the Masai Mara Game Reserve, was charged with murdering Miss Ward, 28, in September 1988.

Chief Magistrate Peter Mugo said Mr. Nchoko was not required to enter a plea because the attorney general's office had yet to authorize the start of the trial. The case was adjourned until Jan. 19.

If convicted, Mr. Nchoko, who was arrested Dec. 28, faces the death penalty by hanging.

Simon Makallah, 49, a former chief warden at Masai Mara at the time of Miss Ward's death, has also been charged with her murder.

Last month, Judge Daniel Aganyanya of the High Court postponed the start of Mr. Makallah's trial until Feb. 4, without giving any reason.

Two park rangers were charged with Miss Ward's murder in 1992 but acquitted by a judge who also criticized the police for a flawed investigation. Mr. Makallah and Mr. Nchoko were prosecution witnesses.

Uganda Police Chief Resigns Over Inquiry

KAMPALA, Uganda — Uganda's chief of police has resigned over allegations of embezzlement and graft in the latest in a series of corruption scandals wracking the government, a newspaper report said Tuesday.

John Cosy Odomele announced his resignation during a New Year's party he threw for his officers, according to a deputy police spokesman, Eric Naigambi.

Mr. Naigambi declined to comment on newspaper reports that Mr. Odomele, who also served as inspector-general, had stepped down over a government investigation into allegations of corruption, including claims that he had used his position as police chief to win supply contracts for companies that he controls.

On Tuesday, the government-owned New Vision newspaper cited an inspector-general's report probing Mr. Odomele's earnings.

The report — which charged that Mr. Odomele "spears corruption in the police force" — said he had used police funds to set up companies and acquire contracts. It also said he used materials from the police construction department to build several large mansions around the country.

سكربت من الامم

ASIA/PACIFIC

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Police Beat Anwar, Malaysia Says, but Culprits Are Mystery

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian government said Tuesday in a report on the beating of Anwar Ibrahim that the police caused certain wounds to the former deputy prime minister. But it said that a three-month investigation had failed to identify the people responsible.

Mr. Anwar's lawyers and the head of the leading opposition party said the failure to find the culprits was "scandalous."

Mr. Anwar was beaten while in police custody in September after being arrested under the country's internal-security laws. At the time, he told a judge that he was blindfolded and beaten until "blood seeped down my nose."

Malaysia's attorney general, Mohtar

Abdullah, said in a statement issued to the Bernama, the national news agency, that the police were "fully responsible" for the injuries to Mr. Anwar.

"Nevertheless," he added, "the investigations which have been carried out so far have not identified the person or persons responsible for such injuries."

Lim Kit Siang, head of the leading opposition party in Parliament, the Democratic Action Party, called on the government to take the investigation out of the hands of the police "to prove to Malaysians and the world that there would be no cover-up."

The attorney general said that the investigation would continue but that "from the evidence obtained so far," the government did not have a case.

Kamar Aminah Kamaruzaman, one of Mr. Anwar's lawyers, said: "It's highly unlikely that they don't know what

happened to someone when he was detained at police headquarters. People going in and out of cells are recorded."

She added: "Someone is responsible. We believe this has gone on for too long."

The attorney general said the investigation into Mr. Anwar's beating involved 67 witnesses, including three doctors, Mr. Anwar himself and dozens of police officers.

The inquiry was led by Mat Zain Ibrahim, who was then head of the criminal investigation department in the provincial city of Malacca.

Mr. Mat Zain has since been promoted to the same post in the capital, the national news agency said Tuesday.

Mr. Lim, the opposition leader, called for the "swiftest public accountability of the brutalities."

"The question uppermost in every-

body's mind must be: If a person who had held as high an office as deputy prime minister, the No. 2 highest post in the country, cannot get justice when arrested by the police, how can any ordinary Malaysian expect justice when they run afoul of the law?" he said.

Mr. Anwar's beating convulsed Malaysia, which has long regarded itself as more developed and sophisticated than most of its neighbors. After news of the beating became public, tens of thousands of Malaysians staged rallies around the capital calling for justice and reform. Posters of the popular former deputy prime minister sporting a black eye became the rallying image of protesters.

Perhaps capturing the national mood best was the scene at the courthouse when members of Mr. Anwar's family and his lawyers first learned of the beating.

"I am so sad that this can happen in our country," Pawancheek Marican, one of Mr. Anwar's lawyers, said immediately after emerging from the courtroom on Sept. 28. "Things are not normal here anymore."

Mr. Anwar described his beating to the judge: "I was asked to stand up, and I was boxed very hard on the left part of the temple and the right part of the head. I was half-conscious, and the police helped me to clean up my nose and my lips."

At the time, Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad, who on Sept. 2 dismissed Mr. Anwar from the government, did not discount the possibility that his former protégé's wounds were self-inflicted.

"It's not impossible, because he will get plenty of mileage if he showed he was abused by police," he said.

BRIEFLY

Burma Reopens Medical Schools

RANGOON — Two years after closing universities nationwide to quell student unrest, Burma's military government reopened medical schools Tuesday.

The move indicated that the government felt confident enough of the security situation that it could reopen campuses that were the site of some of the most persistent protests of late 1996.

In recent months, the infrastructure of the opposition National League for Democracy, headed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has been weakened by the detention of about 1,000 members. The government says they will be released when they agree to quit her party.

The military said that three medical schools and a dental school in Rangoon and Burma's second-largest city, Mandalay, had reopened. (AP)

Pakistanis Mourn Victims at Mosque

MULTAN, Pakistan — Thousands of mourners burying victims of a massacre at a mosque beat their chests and cried out Tuesday for Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to resign and for the Pakistani Army to take over the government.

The mourners held funeral services for 11 of the 16 Shiite Muslims slain while at prayer Monday. They blamed Mr. Sharif for failing to maintain order in Pakistan. The dead were buried in the same mosque where the attack occurred, in the village of Quereshi, more than 30 kilometers (18 miles) from Multan. (AP)

Toll Rises in Aceh

JAKARTA — The death toll from separatist violence in the troubled Indonesian province of Aceh rose to 16, while on Tuesday security forces continue house-to-house searches for suspected rebels.

In Lhokseumawe, a town about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) northwest of Jakarta on the northeast tip of Sumatra, nine civilians were killed Sunday when security forces opened fire on a mob of 3,000 pro-separatist supporters. Seven more people died in hospitals from bullet wounds. (NYT)

U.S. Seeking A UN Court On Cambodia

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Working to ensure that two top Khmer Rouge leaders are put on trial for their roles in the deaths of more than 1 million Cambodians in the 1970s, the Clinton administration is quietly trying to organize an international tribunal under UN auspices that would not be opposed by China and the current Cambodian government.

American officials said one compromise would call for the men, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, to be charged with crimes against humanity that occurred from 1975 to 1979, when the Khmer Rouge under the leadership of Pol Pot ruled Cambodia — and not for crimes that took place afterward.

The officials said they hoped that such a plan would placate Beijing, which was a steadfast supporter of the Maoist-inspired movement from the 1960s until the early 1990s, when a United Nations peace agreement ended virtually all foreign support for the Khmer Rouge.

The Chinese have argued that they were unaware of the mass killings in Cambodia as they were occurring in the 1970s. The full extent of the Khmer Rouge atrocities became clear only after they were driven from power by a Vietnamese invasion in 1979.



A STAR IS REBORN — The North Korean actress Kim Hye Young and her father, Kim Doo Sun, leading family members around Seoul on Tuesday as South Korea revealed they defected in August.

The Vietnamese discovered the archival records of the Khmer Rouge bureaucracy that disclosed the systematic torture and killing of Cambodians as well as the killing fields that held the remains of the victims.

The United States is particularly sensitive to China's concerns about an international tribunal because Beijing can veto any proposal for a trial that comes before the UN Security Council.

Mr. Khieu Samphan, who was the head of state of the Khmer Rouge government, and Mr. Nuon Chea, who as Mr. Pol Pot's second in command was known as "Brother No. 2," defected late last month after spending most of the last two decades in jungle redoubts along Cambodia's border

with Thailand. They have since been allowed to return to their refuge.

American officials acknowledged that a proposal to limit the charges to crimes that occurred from 1975 to 1979 might be seen as benefiting the United States, which gave critical diplomatic support to the Khmer Rouge after the Vietnamese invasion. But they insisted that their goal was not to shield Washington from blame for propping up the Khmer Rouge.

"We have to go some way to satisfying the Chinese if we want a trial that is granted legitimacy by the Security Council," said an administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Our overall goal is to bring the men most responsible for the mass murder of the 1970s to trial in

the best forum possible."

China Cool to Debate

China distanced itself Tuesday from an international debate over how to deal with the former Khmer Rouge leaders, Reuters reported.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said that China did not want to get involved in internal Cambodian politics, but added that Beijing would welcome any development that supported stability in Cambodia.

"As the leaders of Khmer Rouge return to the big family of Cambodia, gradually the issue has become history," Mr. Zhu said. "However, we would appreciate any action that promotes national reconciliation, solidarity and the stability of the country."

Singapore Politician Again Defies Police

Reuters

SINGAPORE — An opposition politician defied police warnings and risked arrest to give a public speech without a license Tuesday.

Chee Soon Juan, leader of the small Singapore Democratic Party, made a 40-minute speech to a crowd of about 800 people in the central business district. It was his second such speech in a week.

He said the governing People's Action Party, which has dominated Singapore's government since independence in 1965, had deprived people of their rights of free speech and freedom of information.

"You must understand that your rights are yours and that the government cannot take them away," he said. "If they do, they will affect you as individuals and as a society."

The government denies that it restricts such speeches, but it says proper procedures must be followed. A public speaker requires a police permit under the Entertainment Act.

Mr. Chee, 36, made a speech at the same place a week earlier. He pleaded not guilty in court Monday after he was charged with making the first unlicensed address, an offense punishable with a fine of as much as 5,000 Singapore dollars (\$3,000). He is due to appear in court Monday on that charge.

A fine of more than 2,000 Singapore dollars would bar him from seeking election for five years.

He said he planned to make another speech next week at the National University of Singapore. Mr. Chee, whose party is not represented in Parliament, said free speech and information were keys to economic success because they fostered creativity and the entrepreneurial spirit.

The police warned him before the speech Tuesday and later tried to serve him with a written request to appear at a police station for questioning. Mr. Chee declined to accept the document.

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Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Strong Start for the Euro

Bank Is a Worry

The euro, the new currency for most of Europe, got off to a strong start as it appeared to be the magnet for capital that its designers desired. The euro gained against the dollar, and big European stocks, now traded in euros, rose sharply. The fact that the euro exists at all, and that polls indicate that it is popular among citizens of most European countries, is a great accomplishment for a generation of European leaders — most notably Helmut Kohl of Germany — that has largely passed from office. Finance ministers had good reason to break out the champagne.

Nonetheless, the most important new institution created along with the euro is off to a disturbing start. The European Central Bank, under the presidency of Wim Duisenberg of the Netherlands, has demonstrated a tendency toward excessive secrecy. The votes of its members on monetary

policy changes are to remain confidential indefinitely. Mr. Duisenberg got the job last May as a result of a deal in which France acquiesced only after it was agreed that he would resign in about four years to be replaced by a French official. Now he says he might ignore that deal and stay in office for eight years.

The European Central Bank was designed to be more independent than even the Federal Reserve or Germany's Bundesbank. But the various national governments retained the authority to choose the bank's top official. By seeming to thumb his nose at that political compromise, Mr. Duisenberg has provided a reminder to European voters of just how much sovereignty their governments have given up. That reminder could come back to haunt him if, or when, Europe's economy runs into difficulties and the central bank needs supporters.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Too Little Democracy

Europe successfully has given birth to a new currency. Eleven disparate parents, from Finland south to Spain, on Monday congratulated themselves heartily on their new offspring, the inelegantly named euro. They see in the unified currency a chance for greater prosperity and global clout.

But each nation in "Euroland" also has ceded a huge chunk of sovereignty, with consequences for their economics and democratic institutions that are today impossible to predict.

Normally, monetary union follows national consolidation. Long after becoming a country, the United States suffered from a fragmented currency system; right up to the Civil War, a bank in Massachusetts made money that might or might not be accepted by a tavern keeper in Virginia. Europe is trying to reverse the process, forcing political unity by giving up its francs, lire and Deutsche marks. It is risky, and not primarily because money is such a treasured symbol of nationhood.

Money is a key component of economic policy-making. If unemployment rises, a central bank can lower interest rates, accepting some inflation or devaluation to spark economic growth. The 11 nations of Euroland now have forsworn that option. The Frankfurt-based European Central Bank will chart monetary policy for all of them, and the same policy for each — although unemployment rates range from 2.2 percent in Luxembourg to 18.2 percent in Spain, and growth rates from 1.5 percent in Italy last year to 8.5 percent in Ireland.

Of course, Massachusetts and Virginia are now similarly subject to the monetary policy of a single Federal Reserve system. But, unlike in Euroland, the central government in the United States also controls fiscal policy, and so can direct tax revenues from prosperous to troubled regions.

In addition, thanks in large part to a common language, workers in Massachusetts move far more freely to jobs in Virginia, or the reverse, than workers will shuttle between Germany and Portugal.

Proponents see many advantages in the euro. Businesses will have a far easier time serving a unified market of 290 million people. Europe's currency may come to rival the dollar. Closely linked economies will make war or political discord less likely. Even the loss of sovereign decision-making is seen as a plus, since governments denied the seductive option of inflationary money printing will be pushed into more painful but ultimately more healthy structural reforms.

All these may pan out. If the euro is to succeed, it will certainly force closer cooperation among the 11 countries in fiscal, labor and other policies. But, as with all supranational schemes, from world government to an international war crimes court, there is an anti-democratic strand in this European Central Bank. Voters in each of the 11 democracies now are far less able to influence economic actions critical to their well-being. In Euroland today, that is seen as a plus — an "insulation" from politics. In time, especially in hard times, it may be seen as a failing.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Cambodia Needs Trials

The annals of justice contain few scenes as bizarre as the goings-on in Cambodia last week. In late December, Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea defected from the straggling remains of the Khmer Rouge guerrillas and turned themselves in to the government. In the past the Cambodian leader, Hun Sen, had favored prosecuting Khmer Rouge leaders, whose regime in the late 1970s killed more than a million people. Instead he declared that these men should be welcomed "with bouquets of flowers." They were, quite literally. Then they were treated to beach vacations. After this engendered outrage in Cambodia and worldwide, Hun Sen said he supported a trial for his guests. He should prove it by arresting them, and then the United Nations must quickly move toward setting up a court.

Trials of the most important Khmer Rouge leaders have been discussed for years. In 1997, Hun Sen signed a letter asking the United Nations for help in setting up such trials. But he has never been serious. He has treated defected Khmer Rouge officials as allies and given them political power. He has manipulated memories of the past.

Last April, the death of Pol Pot robbed Cambodia of the opportunity to try the man known as "Brother Number One." But last month's defectors were near his level. Nuon Chea was known as "Brother Number Two," and Khieu Samphan was the head of state in the Khmer Rouge government. They are now in the town of Pailin, which is run by long Sary, a former high-ranking Khmer Rouge official who was given amnesty when he left the guerrillas in 1996. Hun Sen, however, insisted in the past that the

government had control of Pailin, and so it could arrest them.

Three international jurists hired by the United Nations are in Cambodia, looking at the evidence against the most important Khmer Rouge leaders and assessing the feasibility of trials. They are due to give their report at the end of this month. If the evidence is there, and experts say it is, the Security Council should approve trials of the top surviving Khmer Rouge leaders for crimes against humanity.

Given that Cambodia's justice system is a tool of Hun Sen, the trials will have to be internationally run. But they can have considerable Cambodian participation and should be in Phnom Penh, where they can do the most good for the victims and for Cambodia's still traumatized society.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

Washington Isolated

I have never witnessed such a huge disconnect between the capital and the rest of the country. Washington is transfixed by Bill Clinton's impeachment. The rest of the country hardly seems to care. It is arguable that this distance is an isolated event, reflecting the peculiarity of the Clinton presidency and the carefree attitudes of a booming economy. This is a delusion. These conditions may have enlarged the disconnect, but Washington has grown more insular. People elsewhere tune out because they feel left out.

—Robert J. Samuelson, commenting in Newsweek

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Europe Gives the World an Extraordinary Lesson

By Donald J. Johnston

PARIS — What an achievement! The birth of the euro is a historic accomplishment with global consequences.

Of course, curmudgeons of one kind or another will rail on the happy parade that marches across Europe. But they should be conscious of history. They should reflect on how far Europe has rebuilt itself from the ashes of World War II. Euroland should be seen as an important milestone in that process.

But it is by no means the last one. Successful economies are built on a broad range of strengths, of which sound fundamentals, high expectations and confidence are among the most important. For the most part, they are all present in Euroland.

More than an economic milestone, the birth of the euro is a truly remarkable political achievement forged by statesmanship of the highest order.

To be sure, European monetary union will not be a panacea for Europe's many continuing problems, including its high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people. Nor will it be without its own challenges as it moves to maturity. But to place the magnitude of this event in perspective, consider the words of the British his-

torian H.A.L. Fisher writing in 1936 of the divisions in Europe:

"[Ever] since the first century of our era the dream of unity has hovered over the scene and haunted the imagination of statesmen and peoples. Nor is there any question more pertinent to the future welfare of the world than how the nations of Europe, whose differences are so many and so inveterate, may best be combined into some stable organization for the pursuit of their common interests and the avoidance of strife."

For Fisher, events that for us today seem like the distant past were still recent history. As the curtain was raised on this century, tensions were rising in Europe. Alliances flourished and were central to foreign policy, which was anchored in the concept of balance of power through military strength.

Unlike recent times, when we counted nuclear warheads in establishing that balance, at the beginning of the century it was measured more by the number of soldiers one could put on the field. A French-Russian agreement of 1894, for example, made provision for 1,300,000 French soldiers and from

700,000 to 800,000 Russian soldiers to be deployed against Germany. There already existed the triple alliance of Germany, Italy and Austria, representing the counterbalance, with Britain initially isolated until its entente cordiale with France in 1904.

The purpose of this brief excursion into history is to demonstrate how fragile and tense European relationships were as the century opened.

In the wake of World War I, in which 10 million were killed and another 20 million wounded, one would have thought that lessons had been learned. Sadly not. The tension and fragility quickly returned, and the horrific cost of human life of World War I was not enough to avoid the further carnage and destruction which followed shortly after Fisher's observation.

Living in France, I am caught up by the euphoria of the present moment. But I am also influenced by postwar history and by the role that the Marshall Plan played in making today's events possible. Last year brought the 50th anniversary of George Marshall's Harvard speech when the broad outline of the plan was announced. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which I have the

privilege to direct, is the living legacy of the Marshall Plan, having evolved directly from the Organization for European Economic Cooperation, the effective administrator of the plan. As this 20th century draws to a close, let us hope that the world has learned this lesson for the benefit of future generations: that while lasting freedom, peace, prosperity and security must be defended through military prowess, they can be acquired only through economic cooperation and development. What better example of that could there be than the creation of Euroland? George Marshall and his colleagues of the day who launched that extraordinary experiment in economic cooperation would rejoice in this accomplishment.

Let us celebrate and toast those whose vision made it possible, and especially those who are still with us, including people like Helmut Schmidt, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Sir Edward Heath and Jacques Delors. What a wonderful way to drop the curtain on Europe of the 20th century!

The writer, secretary-general of the OECD, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

The Test of Economic Performance Will Be the Creation of Jobs

INTRODUCTION

The euro is a crucial step in Europe's courageous march toward political union, which may end forever the deleterious nationalism that has ravaged the continent for centuries.

Is monetary union going to last, or will it be pulled apart by centrifugal forces? Legally the Maastricht treaty does not contemplate secession, but in the end durability will depend in large measure not on the legal binds but on economic performance.

Conventional wisdom holds that success will be measured by the extent to which the euro replaces the dollar as a reserve currency.

This is a superficial, even dangerous view. The economic advantages of being a reserve currency are questionable. The danger is that pursuit of prestige could result in escalating interest rates, which would prove very damaging for Europe.

The relevant test of economic performance will be the ability to cure the plague of unemployment, currently averaging 10 percent and higher in member countries. There is no developed country outside the euro group with unemployment close to two digits.

There are many causes, but much of the problem can be traced to misguided and inept economic policies, especially in the monetary area. These mistakes resulted in a collapse of investment.

The prospects for improved policies, which had looked rather dismal, have taken a turn for the better with the election of new governments in France and Germany during the last year and a half. At the same time, the European Central Bank has arranged a concerted reduction in interest rates, with its president expressing the

hope that the move might help "stimulate investment."

If these recent events are any sign of things to come, we can look with some hope to a successful and lasting euro.

—Franco Modigliani, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who received the Nobel prize in economics in 1965, commenting in The New York Times.

Higher Inflation

MONETARY union is likely to put Europe on a path to higher inflation, reversing 20 years of progress.

Before the start of monetary union, good monetary policy in the major European countries reduced inflation to less than 2 percent, because of the dominant leadership of Germany's independent, fiercely anti-inflationary central bank. With the euro, Germany's dominance will end, and central bank independence may be dead.

Even when other countries had double-digit inflation back in the 1980s, public sentiment in Germany supported the tough monetary policies needed to keep inflation low. Under the rules adopted then, other European countries had to follow Germany's lead or accept the destabilizing consequences and political embarrassment of currency devaluations.

But in the new order, the making of monetary policy, and therefore the determination of inflation, passes from individual national central banks to the European Central Bank, where each country has equal weight.

Without the tough standard-setting by the German central bank, the process is likely to drift to higher inflation rates. Indeed, some non-German politicians favored monetary

union as a way to end Germany's dominance of European monetary policy, in the mistaken hope that an easier monetary policy would have favorable long-term effects on employment and growth.

Leading European politicians are now also calling for political controls over monetary policy, a clear violation of the Maastricht treaty that established monetary union and an equally clear recipe for higher inflation.

Although the new left-of-center government in Germany supports this move, the higher inflation that results will be very unpopular in a country in which the majority of voters doubted the advisability of abandoning the mark for the untried euro.

How Germany responds to the conflict caused by rising inflation will be a critical issue in Europe's political future.

—Martin Feldstein, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Reagan administration, commenting in The New York Times.

Capital Is in Charge

LEFT-of-center politicians now lead every major Western nation, including most of Europe. So what? Real power is shifting to global businesses, which are merging at a record pace, and to central banks, rapidly consolidating their authority. The euro accelerates both trends.

Jürgen Stark, vice president of the Bundesbank, says the euro presents a "great opportunity for Europe to combine sound monetary and fiscal policy with more flexibility."

These are code words. "Sound monetary policy" means that the new European Central Bank, freed from

democratic oversight, will fight inflation, not unemployment. "Sound fiscal policy" means that public spending, already slashed as the price of admission to the euro club, will stay that way.

And "more flexibility" means that a common currency will push employers to cut costs, especially payrolls.

Europeans are willing to go along because these sorts of policies appear to have paid off for the United States. President Bill Clinton's 72 percent popularity rating, impeccably matched the record percentage of Americans who think that the American economy is good. It is no coincidence.

What Europeans don't know is that America's economic ebullience rests on a house of cards.

It is not "sound" macroeconomics and a "flexible" labor market that have put Americans in such a good mood — it is a stock market that has soared into the stratosphere, combined with plummeting world commodity prices that have made oil and raw material imports so cheap that even the Fed has briefly stopped battling inflation.

The Dow Jones could come back to earth with a thud when the frenzy abates. The country's ballooning trade imbalance will pop at some point.

Meanwhile, we Americans aren't saving a dime. And when the going gets rough again, we will notice that the gap between rich and poor has widened into a chasm, nobody has job security and there is no safety net. Even in these frothy times, more of our children are impoverished than before the expansion started, and fewer Americans ever see a doctor.

The euro will surely make Europe more efficient, speed-

ing capital to where it can get the highest return. But the real lesson from America is that people do not move nearly as fast as capital.

Left-of-center governments used to provide a buffer between the two. Now capital is running the show everywhere.

—Robert B. Reich, labor secretary in the first Clinton administration, commenting in The New York Times.

More Unity Coming

EUROPEAN monetary union is about redefining the meaning of nationhood. This is what Americans, with their visceral worship of the dollar, evidently do not understand.

The history of the British pound, seems to show that a nation cannot be said to exist if it does not command its own currency. Well, no country had a more totemic reverence for its currency than Germany did, yet Germans have accepted the end of the Deutsche mark — proof that currency need not equal nationhood.

Some governments, mostly those in the smaller nations, seem content to watch a central bank take unsupervised command. Others recognize the problem but lack the imagination or daring to incorporate political reform building a framework to accommodate the "European" consciousness that the arrival of the euro will undoubtedly accelerate.

But this, too, will happen. No one can say exactly when or how, yet the project continues, and every European country wants to join it. Its vast improbability is a measure of its triumph.

—Hugo Young, a columnist for The Guardian (London), commenting in The New York Times.

British Foreign Policy Remains Based on Two Illusions

By Roy Denman

LONDON — There was a time when British foreign policy was shrewd and sensible. Lord Salisbury once described it, with all the self-confidence of great imperial power, as "floating lazily downstream, occasionally putting out a diplomatic boat hook to avoid collisions."

For the last 50 years, British foreign policy has been based on two illusions. The first was that Britain could exercise immense influence in Europe by remaining outside it. The second was that Britain's interest was always best served by tagging along behind the United States. Both illusions continue undimmed.

British participation in the American bombing of Iraq last month was only the latest example. While there are arguments for action against Saddam Hussein, there is little international agreement that air strikes are the best answer. Some argue for a continuing strategy, based on support for the opposition in Iraq and tightening the blockade. Britain was the only country to join immediately and unquestioningly in military action.

It could hardly be claimed that this was a military necessity. By scraping the barrel, Britain contributed 12 fighter-bombers, some 5 percent of the strike force (compared with 10 percent at the time of the Gulf War). The British action was simply the latest demonstration of a slavish servility, reminiscent of a Soviet satellite under Leonid Brezhnev, and even surprising many Americans.

This policy has for Britain three dangers:

• It means stoking up considerable anti-British feeling in

the Arab world, which resents the double standard employed by the United States between them and Israel.

Indeed, attaching itself to American coalitions will have increasing dangers for Britain. President Bill Clinton may at any time be tempted to action overseas to divert attention from his domestic difficulties.

In any case, with the ending of the Cold War and the consequent absence of the need to make common cause against the Evil Empire, American intervention in the world will be increasingly determined by domestic lobbies that can hardly be expected to be concerned with British interests.

• Britain will be taken less and less seriously by all its partners. They have already perceived that any serious discussion of international questions in which Britain is involved means tackling the United States. As a British Labour politician, Nye Bevan, once

Sense of Superiority

AN important element in the character of our national life would be altered by the creation of a land connection... One effect might for example be the weakening of that unquestioning sense of superiority over the peoples of the Continent which forms an essential element in British self-confidence and which has proved its value in recent times.

—From a 1949 Foreign Office submission advising against the building of a Channel tunnel, as quoted by The Daily Telegraph (London) this past Dec. 28.

said: "If we complain about the tune, there is no reason to attack the monkey when the organ grinder is present."

The new German government has made clear its backing for European political as well as economic integration now that the single currency is under way. Imagine the scene when, after much laborious discussion between Berlin and Paris, an outline of a policy in the external field emerges. The small drafting pool figures that with some minor changes the outline could be acceptable to the other members of Euroland.

"And the Brits?" someone asks. Hearts sink around the table. Everyone realizes that the Brits will be impossible to bring along. At every stage they will say, "But this point will not be acceptable to the Americans," or "If you insist on this, Mr. Blair will have to telephone President Clinton."

It becomes clear to all that on foreign policy grounds alone Britain, as an American satellite, has no place in a rapidly integrating Europe.

• Seemingly unaware that he is thus including himself out of Europe by one door, Tony Blair imagines entering by another. His European rhetoric has become warmer. He has attacked the Conservatives for their opposition to further integration.

"The lunatics have taken over the asylum," he jeered.

As for him, he sees British business lobbying massively for entry into monetary union, and his "third way," of flexible labor markets and competitive taxation, proving irresistible across the Channel. He said on Dec. 15 in London: "Those of you who report beyond these

shores know that it is striking a chord right round Europe."

But this is simply living in Spleen Doctor Land. What matters is not the degree of Mr. Blair's rhetoric but his commitment.

Terrified of Rupert Murdoch and his press, he has still made no hard decision on entry into monetary union. Without it, scant attention is being given in Euroland to a voice beyond the city walls. And British businessmen are reluctant to lobby. They regard that as the government's job.

□

Britain's twin illusions mean that its foreign policy is con-

tracted out. In matters European, the real prime minister is Rupert Murdoch. In foreign policy generally, the real prime minister is the president of the United States.

Together they block the historic role that Britain could be playing as one of the builders of a united Europe and as a friendly, steady partner, but not a poodle, of the United States. Lord Salisbury must be spinning in his grave.

The writer, a former representative of the European Commission in Washington, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Peace Prospects

PARIS — The "Novoe Vremya" makes pessimistic remarks about the prospects of disarmament. "Can any aid be expected from Germany, which is preparing to increase her army; from Austria-Hungary, which, by the force of destiny, must enter into open violation of the Constitution in both halves of the Habsburg monarchy; from France where the Dreyfus agitation paralyzes her energetic Government, leaving it no time to deal with any other question of foreign policy?"

1924: Holy Typewriter

ROME — That the days of parchment are over in the Vatican was clearly demonstrated when the Pope received a presentation typewriter. His Holiness examined the keyboard and showed interest in the working of the significant gift.

Although the tic-tac of these modern appliances resounds in the Vatican chancellery, no Pope has ever before come in contact with the modern substitute of the fountain pen.

1949: Russian Theory

MOSCOW — Lavoisier's law on the conservation of matter was discovered by the eighteenth-century Russian physicist Lomonosov, according to the latest claim for Russian science advanced by Sergei Vavilov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. This theory was hitherto credited to the French chemist Lavoisier, but Vavilov insisted it really belongs to Lomonosov. One reason Lomonosov's law is of such great importance, Vavilov explained, is that it is the basis of one of the main premises of the philosophy of dialectical materialism (and therefore of the theory of Communism).

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OPINION/LETTERS

Presidential Race in '99? Don't Blame Candidates

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — Ready or not, here they come. Those in the vanguard of U.S. presidential candidates for 2000 have made their announcements already, and the procession will grow almost every week until a dozen or more are enrolled in the pursuit of the White House.

Before you complain that one year of presidential campaigning is an imposition and two years unendurable, understand why this is happening. It is not the fault of the people who are seeking the presidency.

One reason is that the gridlock on campaign finance legislation has locked in an outmoded contribution limit of \$1,000 per individual. With the cost of running for the presidential nomination estimated at \$20 million, it takes an inordinate amount of time to identify and motivate the thousands of donors each candidate will need.

A second factor is the rush of states to the front of the primary calendar — a mad pursuit that has advanced the campaign schedule to an earlier period than ever. With huge states like California and New York moving their primaries into March of 2000, it now appears likely that almost two-thirds of the national convention delegates will be chosen by the end of that month — the month that until very recently marked the beginning, not the end, of the nomination contest.

With at least 28 states holding contests in the first quarter of 2000, candidates must do most of their campaigning in 1999. Even with jet planes and satellite TV linkups, they simply will not have enough days in their schedule to reach the voters if they wait until next January.

Raising the money and spreading the message require that the candidates begin now, unseemingly as that appears and unwelcome as it may be to a country turned off by politics and reluctant to be dipped further in a pool of partisan rhetoric and political bunkum.

And that sets up a tension that may make election 2000 unlike any we have seen. The dimensions of the contest are almost certain to be larger than usual, not just in length but in significance.

But public acceptance — let alone participation — is very much in doubt.

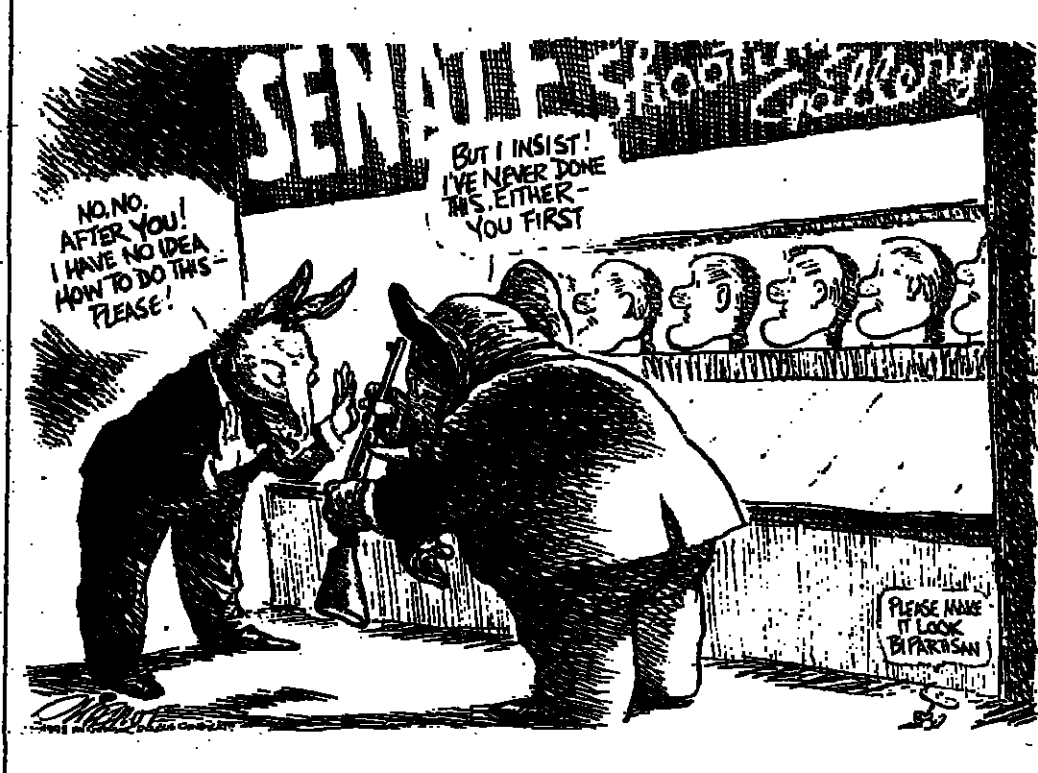
Start with the fact that this is the first millennium election since the American republic began and only the third to inaugurate a new century. It is a time that beckons Americans to lift their sights beyond the controversies of the moment.

The campaigning begins with the nation at peace and enjoying widespread prosperity. But epochal changes are taking place. The baby boom generation has become the grown-up generation, responsible for leadership in almost all the key public and private sector posts. Financing their retirement and health care benefits has become the single biggest threat to U.S. finances.

And science has created a host of ethical dilemmas, which inevitably will become political issues. Fertility drugs, cloning techniques and the regenerative potential of stem cells pose serious questions about the beginning of life, its sustenance, its replication and its extension far beyond the biblical "three score years and ten."

Questions from the "harvesting" of excess embryos to the acceptability of physician-assisted suicide make this a campaign in which questions of values and morality may loom large.

Americans have gone through a cycle of declining trust in the in-



stitutions of democracy. The presidency, Congress, the courts, political parties all have been weakened by a crossfire of attacks on their integrity. Cynicism about government has rarely been greater.

The impeachment of President Bill Clinton and the forced resignations of three of the last four men to lead the House of Representatives speak to the destructiveness of this trend.

Beyond the challenge of se-

lecting the next occupant of the White House and the next majority on Capitol Hill, the campaign now beginning may go a long way toward determining whether the presidency and Congress can reclaim their legitimacy in the eyes of the public. If not, the republic may evolve further in the direction of a direct democracy of the Internet and the polls — an evolution the founders tried to deflect with the elaborate checks

and balances of the constitution. All this is on the table. There is no guarantee Americans will mark the millennium with an inspired choice of leader. In 1800, they elected Thomas Jefferson, but in 1900, the pedestrian William McKinley won a second term.

Given the range of possible outcomes, two years may be none too much to debate the alternatives in election 2000.

The Washington Post.

Millennial Retirement: It's Time to Rethink

By Stephen M. Pollan

NEW YORK — The meaning of retirement has changed with every American generation. When Franklin Roosevelt and his New Dealers laid the cornerstone for American retirement with the Social Security Act of 1935, retirement was viewed as a

MEANWHILE

short-term safety net for the hand-picked survivors past age 65 after a lifetime of manual labor. At that time, life expectancy was 63.

The Silent Generation, which retired flush in the 1950s, enjoyed the fruits of increased private pensions, advances in medicine and real estate profits. It also redefined retirement as a lifestyle: shuffleboard in the Sun Belt.

The baby boom generation, their wealth diluted by their numbers and their dreams inflated by their idealism, has tended to see retirement as a formidable goal to aspire toward. They are on standby for a two-decade-long Renaissance Weekend.

To Generation X, whose slackening appraisal of their future, retirement is a cruel joke. They know they will need to work forever to pay the Social Security of all those utopian boomers.

But the most radical and, I believe, healthiest redefinition of retirement is coming from the Millennial Generation, the leading edge of which is college age today. According to a recent survey of college students, an astounding 64 percent of them believe they will retire before the age of 50.

This may sound like youthful bravado or ludicrous optimism — after all, these students have not even started their careers. But their attitudes, as reflected in a survey conducted on KPMG Peat Marwick's recruitment Web site and in my own experience as a career consultant, may be a harbinger of a revolution that redefines career as well as retirement.

The members of this generation are willing to trade job security and satisfaction today for the chance to make the money that will enable them to lead richer lives in 30 years. And they are planning on doing whatever it takes during the first three decades of their working lives to enable them to do whatever they want for the subsequent three decades.

One young man who is working long hours as a mechanical engineer for an aerospace contractor recently came to me for advice on how to save enough cash to move eventually to Dublin and open a pub. A management trainee at a multinational media company told me that his goal was to build enough wealth so he could devote himself to his music.

What my young clients and the college students who took the KPMG survey apparently share is the sense that work and career are not necessarily the same thing.

In the recession of the early 1990s, much was made of unmotivated Gen Xers who told pollsters they expected to be worse off than their parents. The Millennial Generation, on the other hand, has a renewed

64 percent of college students believe they will retire before 50.

sense of purpose. Eighty percent of the college students responding to the KPMG survey expect to work more than 45 hours a week at their first job, and 64 percent think they will change careers at least three times in their lifetime.

These young people are not being capricious; they are being resilient. They have seen the economy reward individuals for hard work, flexibility and innovation. They have also seen baby boomers veer from idealism to materialism and back again.

For the Millennial Generation, work is a means to an end. And the end they are pursuing, while still labeled "retirement," is not a mythic life of leisure — it is freedom to do whatever work they choose.

In the KPMG survey, 81 percent of the students said they think they will be more successful than their parents. If they are willing to work for it, who are we to call them wild-eyed optimists?

The writer is a lawyer and financial adviser. He and Mark Levine, who helped write this article, are the authors of "Die Broke" and "Live Rich." They contributed this column to The New York Times.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Word to the Maven

I was amused to read the phrase "no haven for the maven" in William Safire's column on language (Dec. 28). I wonder how many other readers realize that "maven" is pure Hebrew and whether Mr. Safire has ever pointed this out.

Israel of course is full of people who think they know English and have no inhibitions about showing their ignorance. The sign put up by the doctor who treats "Women and other diseases" is a classic, and there was the sign at the pedestrian crossing warning drivers to watch out for streetwalkers.

I recently heard the following language joke. A mother mouse sensed the approach of a cat, hid her small baby mice under her body and loudly shouted "bow wow!" The frightened cat ran away and the mouse told her kid-

dies, "You see how useful it is to know a second language!"

HARRY J. LIPKIN,
Rehovot, Israel.

Civilized Borrowings

In response to "Among U.S. Students, French Keeps Its Chic" (Dec. 28):

When a Frenchman says *le stress* or *le disk-jockey* the author seems to suggest that the Frenchman is acknowledging the superiority of "the American way of life."

But when we read in the American or British press these French words or expressions — *déjà vu*, *raison d'être*, *cul de sac*, *vis-à-vis*, *bon vivant*, *entrepreneur*, *chargé d'affaires*, *pas de deux*, etc. — never would we think that our culture or language is better than yours! We think of it only as un-

échange de bons procédés between civilized and polite peoples.

JACQUES H. MELIES,
Tokyo.

Saddam's Sweater

Astoundingly, all observers of Desert Fox and its aftermath have overlooked the obvious. Had they been more astute they would have picked up on the telltale sign that Saddam is weary and ripe for overthrow: On CNN and the BBC he has of late frequently been seen wearing, over his military green, a short-sleeved pullover.

The short-sleeved pullover is known the world over by haberdashers as an "old man" thing. Once donned, it is an unmistakable sign of giving up and fading into a flaccid Morris chair retirement. Do not listen to Saddam's ag-

gressive words. The pullover is the message. White flag.

ALAN GOLDFEIN,
Bad Herrenalb, Germany.

Bombing GM and Ford

Regarding the Ford and General Motors plants operating under German management in World War II ("U.S. Automakers Fight Claims of Aiding Nazis," Dec. 3):

The plants were repeatedly bombed by the Allies. For instance, the Ford Poissy factory near Paris was attacked by the RAF on March 8 and on April 2-3, 1942. A year later, the U.S. Army Air Force raided the Ford and GM plants in Antwerp, on May 4 and 14 and again on June 22. The Cologne, Germany, Ford factory was bombed four times in October 1944, again by U.S. bombers.

ROGER ANTHOINE,
Geneva.

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INTERNATIONAL

The Bride Wore White and, Afterward, a Zulu Beaded Skirt

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

KWAMBONAMBI, South Africa — The Zulu bride had intended to approach the groom's family homestead in her shimmering white wedding gown, with her pearl-studded headdress and 20-foot-long train. But her husband's relatives would have none of it.

The wedding festivities came to a standstill. The singing stopped.

Negotiations began as family members from both sides milled around on the dusty road outside the bridegroom's family's property, each side clucking over the other's stubbornness. Eventually it was decided that Nompumelelo Mkhwanazi, surrounded by her family, could come as far as the gate in her white dress.

But then she would have to go away again to change into a traditional beaded skirt and leopard-skin collar before actually being welcomed by the Mthembus — who had slaughtered a pale brown cow for the occasion and carefully divided the meat between the two families, in Zulu tradition.

"After that, she is theirs," joked the bride's uncle, Joe Mkhwanazi, who had led the bride's negotiating team and agreed to the compromise. "They can do what they want with her."

Across South Africa, in black town-

ships and in rural villages, tribal marriage ceremonies are under assault, and it is not merely because young women want the white dresses. They are also seeking the stronger legal rights that state-sanctioned weddings hold out for them.

Under the apartheid government, marriages following local tradition were widely practiced but not recognized by the state. They were governed by tribal law, which made wives wards of their husbands. Once married, a woman could not own property; if divorced, she had no claim to any of the couple's assets. Her husband could take another wife without her consent.

The apartheid government, geared to the needs of whites, recognized only weddings where couples were required to obtain a license and to be married by someone the state had authorized.

Last autumn, however, Parliament passed a law recognizing tribal marriages and seeking to bring them in line with the country's new constitution, which guarantees equal rights to women.

The new law allows a wife in a tribal marriage to own property and gives her half the marital assets in case of divorce, as with other state-sanctioned marriages. It continues, however, to allow a husband who has been married only under tribal law to take more than one wife —

as long as the first wife agrees and there is a formal inventory of property to protect the first wife's claims.

Many advocates of women's rights acknowledge that the law governing tribal weddings was a compromise, but they contend that it was one that could not have been avoided.

The rural areas are filled with women in polygamous marriages — and out-

property clauses will eventually make an impact. "Our hope is that now it will be so expensive that polygamy will eventually die out," she said.

Already, she points out, traditional marriages are on the wane.

Since South Africa never recognized them, there are no statistics on tribal marriages. But Likhapha Mbatha, a researcher at the University of Witwatersrand's Center for Applied Legal Studies, says that even before the new law, black South Africans had increasingly been mixing their cultural traditions with others and insisting on a conventional, state-sanctioned ceremony as well. Part of the impetus was the influence of Christianity.

Those most likely to mix the two services were the most urbanized and educated.

In many cases, weddings have become an expensive mix of both cultures, with aggravation and amusement for everyone involved.

The nuptials of Miss Mkhwanazi and Mkhokozisi Mthembu began on a recent Saturday with a "white wedding": a Christian ceremony that took place in her family's Baptist church near their home in a township outside Richards Bay on South Africa's east coast.

The service had elements of African tradition, though. For instance, family

elders from both sides of the aisle gave speeches describing the many virtues of their own families, in a kind of jovial contest. At one point, the bride's uncle made her stand to show how sturdily built she was — "like an ox," he said. The bridegroom, he pointed out, was just a short man.

The couple, known to their friends and family as Mphume and Guava, did not argue about having both kinds of wedding ceremonies. They agreed immediately that both were necessary to satisfy their respective families. The bride, who lets her outgoing husband do most of the talking, said demurely that she would not have been happy with only a traditional wedding.

"I am not going to feel good," she said. "There are people in my family who would want to see me in a white dress, and even myself, I liked to see it."

But there was no argument. The bridegroom, a teacher like his wife and the chairman of the English and history department of a rural high school, said that he too wanted a legally binding agreement that protected his wife from tribal customs and superstitions that could leave her penniless if he died.

"In our culture, there is nothing to say that, if I die, my brother can't come and say, 'You killed him — you get nothing,'" he said. "Educated people cannot allow that type of wedding."

Turkish General Appeals for Unity In 'Critical Period'

Reuters

ANKARA — One of Turkey's top army officers urged secularist politicians Tuesday to put aside factional quarrels and unite against Islamist and Kurdish activism.

Civilian power has weakened in the last month with the collapse of a secularist government, which squabbling party leaders have failed to replace.

The plea for national unity was made by General Atilla Ates, the land forces commander.

"The country needs domestic stability more than ever," the Anatolian News Agency quoted him as having said in the town of Kayseri in a speech to troops newly returned from fighting Kurdish separatist rebels.

"Everyone should put the country's interests first in such a critical period," he said. "No opinion or consideration should be more important than the national interest."

Turkey has been without an established government for 40 days but, familiar with such uncertainty, it shows no signs of major disruption apart from disquiet among some military leaders.

IRAQ: Jets Clash in Air Duel Over South

Continued from Page 1

fly zones," said the White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart. "It's an important part of our containment policy."

Mr. Lockhart said the no-flight zones — imposed in the north and south of Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War — were designed to limit President Saddam Hussein's ability to threaten his neighbors and repress the Iraqi people.

"And there's nothing that's happened in the last days or weeks that indicates that he has regained that ability," he said. "We know that he's frustrated and we know he's isolated. We know from his own words that he's isolated. He's very angry that he hasn't received the support he believes he deserves from his neighbors."

U.S. officials said that if one of the Iraqi planes crashed, as initial reports reaching the Pentagon suggested, it was probably because the jet's fuel tanks ran dry. Recent Iraqi military defections have reported that the Iraqi Air Force has barred its pilots from filling their tanks for fear that they might try to defect.

The air duel was the third and most dramatic military confrontation with Iraq in little more than a week. Baghdad appears eager to test U.S. resolve after American and British air strikes last month against military and industrial targets in Iraq.

In the earlier incidents, American warplanes attacked Iraqi air-defense batteries after Iraq carried out a threat to fire on American and British aircraft patrolling the no-flight zones.

Iraqi confirmed the air-to-air confrontation Tuesday — the first between American and Iraqi jet fighters since Dec. 27, 1992, when an American F-16 shot down an Iraqi MiG-25 — but denied that any of its planes had crashed.

Suit Asks Israel To Prod Poles on Camp's Church

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Hoping to force Poland to remove a church at the Auschwitz death camp, a U.S. Jewish group asked Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday to order the Israeli government to stop sending high school students on tours of the site.

Rabbi Avi Weiss, who heads the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, a New York-based advocacy group, said he hoped the court would rule to block the trips of Israeli high school students until the church is dismantled.

Rabbi Weiss said that by withholding hundreds of thousands of dollars in tourism revenue from the student trips, Israel might succeed in pressuring the Polish government to remove the church. Rabbi Weiss said the church was an affront to the memory of the Holocaust.

"The revenue is very important to the Polish government, and we very much want Jewish students to visit the camps," Rabbi Weiss said. "But my sense is that the only language the Poles understand is this kind of pressure."

The church was installed in 1983 in a former Nazi headquarters building in the Birkenau section of the camp. Rabbi Weiss said the establishment of the church violated a 1972 United Nations declaration ordering the camp to be left intact.

In addition to the church, dozens of crosses have been erected in memory of Christians killed in Auschwitz. More than 1.1 million people died in the camp, 90 percent of them Jews. The crosses have also angered Jewish groups.

The Israeli Education Ministry said it would only comment on the case once court proceedings begin.

Joanna Topolinska of the Poland's Education Ministry said Tuesday that the government had no reaction to the lawsuit since the ministry was not involved in it.

Miss Topolinska said the ministry was working with the Israeli government on a new program of youth visits that would be "more centered on the future and less centered on the past."

Polish officials have criticized the Israelis' trips in the past for focusing exclusively on the death camps and the Holocaust, while ignoring what they term more positive points in the history of the Jews in Poland.

The official Iraqi News Agency said that Iraqi planes "confronted and clashed with the aggressive British and American aircraft" before "the aggressive aircraft withdrew. All of our air force planes returned to base safely."

American officials said that despite the Iraqi claim, British warplanes, which also patrol the no-flight zones, were not involved in the incident Tuesday.

Since the four-night American and British air campaign last month against Iraq, dubbed Operation Desert Fox by Washington and London, Baghdad has vowed to resume flying over large the swaths of northern and southern Iraq where the United States and its allies now bar Iraqi aircraft.

The Iraqi Air Force chief, General Khaldoun Khattab Omar, said in an interview published Tuesday in an Iraqi government newspaper that Baghdad intended to "tear down the lines" delimiting the no-flight zones.

"Iraqi fighter planes are totally free to fly the skies of Iraq, in the north and the south," he was quoted as saying. "They have the right to defend our territory and no one can stop them."

■ 'No Problems' for Aid Workers

U.S. and British humanitarian aid workers have not encountered security problems in Iraq despite tensions between their governments and Baghdad, a UN official said Tuesday. The Associated Press reported from Baghdad.

George Somerville, spokesman for the aid workers, spoke a day after Iraq formally asked the United Nations to replace the U.S. and British aid workers in the country. Baghdad said it could not protect them from popular anger following the U.S.-British air strikes.

Aid workers "have not encountered any problems related to their safety in the past," Mr. Somerville said.

The humanitarian aid workers, who oversee a UN-approved oil-for-food program, were, however, withdrawn from the country for three days during the mid-December bombardment.

Baghdad has said that it will not renew the visas of nine Britons and one American working with the program, which allows Iraq to pump \$5.2 billion in oil and purchase food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. Four Britons and three Americans, however, will be allowed to remain in Iraq, Baghdad said.

Mr. Somerville said the absence of the Americans and British would have little effect on the program, which has about 400 staff members throughout Iraq. "The program has not been affected and all workers are doing their duties on a normal basis," he said.

CLINTON: Senate Leader Vows 'Fair' Trial

Continued from Page 1

represented them, and throughout the trial, by his legal team.

The Senate would conduct the trial in open session. At any point, a majority of senators could vote to end the trial.

The Republicans hold 55 seats, the Democrats 45, and an eventual vote to remove Mr. Clinton from office would require a two-thirds majority, or 67

Court Compensates Stasi Leader for Jail

Agence France-Press

BERLIN — Erich Mielke, the aged former boss of the Stasi, the East German secret police, has received about 1,000 euros in compensation for the three months he spent in jail in 1991, a court spokesman here said Tuesday.

Mr. Mielke was accused in cases of people shot as they tried to flee over the Berlin Wall. The charges were dropped last year after he was deemed too ill to stand trial. A court had rejected Mr. Mielke's bid for compensation, finding that he likely would have been convicted had his trial not been halted. But he won an appeal of that ruling, receiving the equivalent of about \$1,180.

Mr. Mielke, 91, was sentenced to six years in jail in 1993 for the murder of two police officers in 1951. He was diagnosed as senile and released in August 1995.



A soldier guarding the UN Development Program building in Baghdad, site of a pro-Iraq demonstration Tuesday.

ARABS: Saddam Calls on the Arab World to Support Him

Continued from Page 1

ing journalists, criticizing the Iraqi leader for the suffering of his people.

In private, Western diplomats say, Egyptian officials have expressed little more than scorn for the declared support that the United States has given to Iraqi opposition groups, on the grounds that none represent a real threat to the Iraqi leader.

They also say that Egypt would not support a new round of attacks on Iraq.

But even if Egypt's harsh new rhetoric was prompted mostly by pique, the effect has been to draw a sharp new line between Arab regimes sympathetic to Iraq and those that clearly are not.

"Egypt has made up its mind about Iraq and there is no way back," said Mohammed Sayed Said, a senior researcher at the Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo.

By the accounts of Western diplomats, Egypt, along with Saudi Arabia, was instrumental in securing the postponement until Jan. 24 of a meeting of Arab foreign ministers that the Baghdad government had hoped would take up the Iraqi cause.

The United Arab Emirates and Yemen, which have expressed some sympathy with Iraq, had pressed for a quick meeting, but the Egyptians and the Saudis, determined to keep other Arabs at arm's length from Iraq, were determined

"to slow down the train" in the expectation that anger over the U.S.-led air strikes would fade, the diplomats said.

Among the incendiary statements that have fueled tensions was a suggestion last week by Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, that Mr. Mubarak was "the only one in this world" who had said that Iraq, and not the United States, should bear the responsibility for the air strikes.

Another, in the Iraqi newspaper Babel, which is owned by Mr. Saddam's son Uday, urged Egyptians to topple Mr. Mubarak and thereby "reject their shameful ruler who has lost everything, including his self-respect."

One of the Iraqi attacks that angered Egyptian officials, a cartoon in Babel, depicted Mr. Mubarak dancing in a female costume to the applause of American, Kuwaiti and Israeli leaders.

Among other Arab leaders criticized by Iraq in recent days has been Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, the country's acting leader since King Hussein began cancer treatment in the United States six months ago.

Mr. Aziz said that the prince, as well as Mr. Mubarak, was responsible for the postponement of the meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

Most Arab governments, including Egypt, lost patience long ago with Mr. Saddam's regime. But since the Gulf War they have generally refrained from direct criticism, choosing instead to emphasize their sympathy for "the Iraqi people."

Grenade Wounds Iranian Justice Official

Reuters

TEHRAN — A senior Iranian justice official was wounded Tuesday when a motorcyclist hurled a hand grenade at his car, the official Iranian press agency IRNA reported.

It said the assailant, who fled, hurled the grenade at the vehicle in which Hojatoleslam Ali Razini, head of the Tehran judiciary, was traveling after leaving work. Mr. Razini's driver and two passengers by Mr. Razini were also wounded in the explosion in central Tehran.

IRNA said that Hojatoleslam Razini, a conservative Shiite Muslim cleric,

had been "slightly wounded" in the legs and taken to a hospital but that his condition was "satisfactory."

No one has taken responsibility for the attack. It comes four months after Mohsen Rafiqdoust, a senior economic official, survived an attempt on his life in mid-September. In August, Asadollah Lajevardi, the former head of Iran's prisons, was killed by gunmen in Tehran's bazaar. The Iraq-based Mujahidin Khalq opposition group claimed responsibility for killing him, saying he was responsible for the execution of political prisoners.



Tom Daschle, the Senate minority leader, answering questions about trial.

JAPAN: Tokyo Plays Down a Minister's 'Inappropriate Remarks'

Continued from Page 1

"I would like to apologize sincerely for the inappropriateness of my remarks and I withdraw them," he said.

Hironaka Nomura, the chief cabinet secretary, said at a news conference Tuesday that Mr. Nakamura had made "very inappropriate remarks" and that the manner was serious. But he added that the justice minister had also shown remorse, and the government seems to regard the matter as closed.

Countries like China, South Korea and North Korea get nervous whenever the Japanese talk about changing their constitution and especially Article 9, which forever renounces "the threat or

use of force." It also says that Japan will never maintain "land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential."

In fact, Japan manages to have the most impressive armed forces in Asia and the third-largest military budget in the world through its deployment of what it calls "self-defense forces."

Such forces, Tokyo argues, are not banned by Article 9.

It is difficult to gauge how widespread Mr. Nakamura's views are. Many conservatives in Japan say that views like his are common but that politicians do not feel free to express them because they get in trouble with the news media whenever they say such things.

Particularly in rural areas, which are

heavily overrepresented in the Japanese political system, Mr. Nakamura's sentiments seem to resonate with many ordinary voters. There is deep resentment at what is perceived as American bullying and insistence on ruthless free-market policies, and many people also feel that half a century after World War II it is time for Japan to stand up and adopt a more muscular constitution and foreign policy.

There have been growing calls for revision of the constitution, in large part to allow armed forces and military activities. But due to the sensitivity of the issue, it is expected to be many years before any changes might actually be enacted.

CUBA: U.S. Widens Contacts

Continued from Page 1

appoint a commission to undertake a sweeping review of U.S. policy toward Cuba. The White House spokesman, Joe Lockhart, called the proposal "constructive" but said the administration had concluded that there was sufficient bipartisan backing without a commission to proceed with the latest steps.

Senator John Warner, Republican of Virginia, who had led the effort to form a commission, expressed disappointment. He said that U.S. policy "treated Cuba more cruelly than it did Iraq and North Korea, where U.S. embargoes were less restrictive."

Critics of the Cuban government had denounced the idea of a commission. A Cuban-American legislator from Florida, Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican, said the new moves masked the administration's "true intention of normalizing relations with the Cuban dictator."

The announcement Tuesday included some steps that appeared intended to appeal to hard-liners in the Cuban-American community who oppose any lessening of the isolation of the Castro government. It said the two U.S. broadcasting outlets that bear anti-Communist programming to Cuba, Radio Marti and TV Marti, would be strengthened.

Mr. Clinton, in his statement, said that changes announced in March, following Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba, had had a "positive impact." At that time, the United States restored direct passenger flights, allowed family members to send cash remittances to Cuba, increased sales of medicines and expanded exchange programs.

In Cuba, where the economy has suffered staggering blows from the loss of Soviet subsidies, then from drought, followed by a powerful hurricane in September, the infusion of cash is sure to be welcomed.

Under existing guidelines, Cuban-Americans are allowed to send relatives up to \$1,200 a year. The new rules would allow any American to send \$1,200 yearly to any Cuban except top Communist Party officials.

Family remittances bring about \$500 million a year to the island. That would work out to about \$40 per person if evenly distributed.

That small amount of money and the millions in tourist earnings have made an important difference, saving many Cubans from destitution at a time when families rely on government ration tickets to buy food.

It has also, however, added to sharply emerging disparities between those without dollars and those with them, and between those who have made the most of Cuba's tentative openings to limited capitalism and to those still reliant on the old Communist economy.

An early indication of Cuban reaction to the new measures is expected this week, when a delegation from the Baltimore Orioles baseball team travels to Havana to explore the possibility of exhibiting baseball games with a Cuban squad in March. Such a game would be permitted, the State Department said, only if profits went to independent charities.

The choice of the Orioles as sporting emissaries appeared to stem from a visit to Havana in March by the mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, who suggested at the time organizing an exhibition game in the Cuban capital, according to The Baltimore Sun.

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STAGE/ENTERTAINMENT

Lingering Tunes Of Carmichael A Centennial Kicks Off

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Hoagy Carmichael is in the process of kicking off a many-faceted centennial celebration of his father's many-splendored career. The middle name Bix is in honor of Beiderbecke, the famous cornetist who was his father's mentor. Folklore has it that Bix awoke the future tunesmith by suggesting: "Why don't you write music, Hoagy?"

Hoagland Howard Carmichael (1899-1981) was born in Bloomington, Indiana, and is best known as a songwriter — "Stardust," "Lazy River," "Baltimore Oriole," "Skylark," "The Nearness of You" and "Hong Kong Blues," and something like 700 others.

He also acted in such movies as "To Have and Have Not," "Young Man With a Horn," "The Best Years of Our Lives," and "Topper." He acted as host for "The Saturday Night Review," a popular variety program on early television, and played a hired ranch hand in the western series "Laramie."

His long angular deadpan face and Midwest twang are easily remembered even when he isn't sitting at the piano playing ragtime or singing with what he called his "flamby-through-the-nose-voice." He never studied music, acting or, though he wrote his two-volume autobiography without the help of a ghost, writing.

It quickly became a household face. Ahead of his time, inventing his own music-based eclectic persona, something Steve Allen would do later, he was known for his physical presence, for what he had to say and how he said it as much as for what he did.

One thing he did not do — with very few exceptions, "Rockin' Chair" for one — was write his own lyrics (Mitchell Parish wrote the words for "Stardust").

The planned centennial events include new editions of "The Stardust Road" and "Sometimes I Wonder," his autobiographies; a "Country Sings Carmichael" concert in Nashville; a "star-studded" concert at the Royal Ascot Racecourse in England; a memorial concert in Bloomington, and a compilation CD of new recordings by well-known artists.

The music historian Richard Sudhalter has finished a new biography, and a pair of songbooks will be published early this year. "Ole Buttermilk Sky," a CD compilation with the composer performing 24 of his songs, was released last year. And there are plans for a Broadway musical using Carmichael's songs.

After earning a law degree, he worked as a young man for the firm Carmichael and Carmichael, no relation, in Palm Beach, Florida. "He was out of there fast," Hoagy Bix said. "He was beginning to hear his songs on the radio and he'd ask himself what the heck he was doing in an office. Anyway, all he ever did down there was play the piano."

There is a story about a musician waking up in the middle of the night with a beautiful melody in his head. He dragged himself out of bed, wrote it down and went back to sleep. In the morning it turned out to be the verse of "Stardust." With its



Hoagy Carmichael in a photo from the 1940s.

verse being complimentary but still strong enough to stand on its own, the total is a kind of tone poem that somehow belongs to us all. Nothing is superfluous, and there is nothing to add. "Stardust" is like a baller. One step follows another with graceful inevitability.

Carmichael loved the Beatles, even though their style replaced his in the 1960s. "That was it," Hoagy Bix said. "My dad stopped writing when rock arrived. He was 67, he had 12 or 13 healthy years ahead of him. But nobody wanted to listen to those kind of songs any more. People stopped returning his calls."

Why fight it? After writing "Stardust," Carmichael said he had "the queer sensation that this melody was bigger than me." Maybe he just knew that it was as good as it would ever get. What was the point? He didn't need the money. "Stardust" was and still is the most recorded song in the history of American popular music, with more than 2,400 covers. You never get tired of listening to it.

Performing "Stardust," Louis Armstrong sounds like he wrote it in the first place (you get the same feeling from the two franchise versions of Carmichael's "Georgia on My Mind" by Ray Charles and Billie Holiday). Other notable renditions of "Stardust" include Ella Fitzgerald's, Frank Sinatra's (an elegantly minimal 2-minute, 46-second version of the verse alone), Artie Shaw's (one of his biggest hits), Willie Nelson's (ditto) and, more recently, illustrating its continuing relevance, Natalie Cole's (as with Nelson's, the title song of an important album) and Wynton Marsalis's, adding some fancy modal scales.

Although Carmichael never again wrote songs, it had apparently once been very easy for him. Hoagy Bix explained: "My dad always said that all these tunes are already in the piano keys. All you have to do is find them. He would wake up in the morning and go looking for all that stuff, which was there anyway. He'd say: 'First one who finds it gets to keep it.'"

New Light on Sydney Festival

By Jo Litson

SYDNEY — For his first Sydney Festival, last year, Leo Schofield lit the Sydney Opera House with a brilliant blue to tie in with the Yves Klein exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art opposite. There had been slide projections on the Opera House sails in the past, but it was the first time the building had ever been bathed in a color wash.

It looked spectacular and it sent out a message: The Opera House would be the epicenter of Schofield's festival. In so doing, Schofield, the artistic director, gave the festival a focus that it had previously lacked (a move begun by his predecessor, Anthony Steel, who had centered much of his programming around the harbor).

During this year's festival (until Jan. 26), the Opera House gleams fiery red and, once again, a huge amount of activity happens in and around the building. Outside, the Spanish theater company Els Comediantes takes over Circular Quay and the opera's forecourt. Inside, events range from William Walton's mighty choral work, "Belshazzar's Feast," to flamenco from Madrid's Campanas Flamenecas to the Broadway star Patti LaBelle.

"One of the scariest statistics I was ever given was that 75 percent of Sydneysiders had not attended an event in the Sydney Opera House," Schofield said. "I would think 100 percent have been to it and walked around it or watched fireworks from it, but it's getting them inside it."

The Sydney Festival is 22 years old. Established to bring life back to the city during the summer vacation period when tourists abound but most of the locals have headed for the beach, it has always been a mixed bag embracing "high art" and decidedly populist events like the now traditional Ferrython on Australia Day and the free outdoor concerts — Opera, Symphony and Jazz in the Domain. But, in recent years, despite some memorable programming, it had become such a mixed bag that it had no clear profile, while its use of venues around town (with little in the Opera House) gave it no focal point.

Schofield arrived at the Sydney Festival after three years as artistic director of the Melbourne Festival, where his appointment had caused howls of outrage. Having spent nearly three decades running parallel careers in advertising and journalism, gaining a high profile as a restaurant reviewer for the Sydney

Morning Herald (not destined to endear him to Melbournians), The Age newspaper described his appointment as "an embarrassing mistake." However, "Mr. Sydney" as they dubbed him, quickly won everyone over and his three festivals in Melbourne were outstandingly successful.

When he was appointed in Sydney there was a frisson of suspicion, but the success of his 1998 festival, which broke all records, raising box office revenue to 3.8 million Australian dollars (\$2.3 million) from 2.2 million, quickly put an end to that. He also used his considerable networking talents — Schofield seems to know everyone — to double corporate sponsorship. This year that

two companies in each city," he said. "If you live in a grand international metropolis, companies visit, or if they don't you can hop on a train or a plane to see a production in Paris, or wherever. That's not possible here and I think the public has come to recognize that within the highly compressed and feverish atmosphere of a festival, there is an opportunity for its tastes to be elevated as well as for the local companies to measure their work against the international best."

Other musical events include the British string septet The Gogmagogs, with a radically athletic approach to classical music; the "Queen of Salsa" Celia Cruz; the Parisian pianist Philippe Cassard, and the \$10 Proms at the Sydney Town Hall, which feature international and Australian artists performing the kind of things you are unlikely to hear in subscription programs: the Sydney Symphony Orchestra playing a jazz program and the Australian Chamber Orchestra playing William Walton's "Facade," with the composer's widow, Lady Susana Walton, and the Australian actor John Bell narrating Edith Sitwell's poems, and movie music from films including "Psycho."

There is also the now traditional celebration of the outdoors with a large number of free outdoor events: the OpenAir Cinema at scenic Mrs. Macquarie's Point, the Festival de Cuba on the Darling Harbour floating Aquashell, Sculpture on Site at the Royal Botanic Gardens and various other locations including the Sydney Opera House foyer.

"Fifteen percent of our audience are visitors," Schofield said. "We run the Sydney Festival for the people of Sydney and anyone who happens to be in town, so it has to have a different feel to it. It's a very summer spin. It kind of celebrates elements of the city we like to think are part of our lifestyle — the relaxed music concerts in the park, the gathering together for big circus events (Cirque du Soleil in 1999), the gathering around the ceremonial heart of the city, which is the Sydney Opera House."

Other highlights of the 1999 Festival include "Grims Tales" from Britain's Young Vic Company, Vietnamese water puppets in the Royal Botanic Gardens, "Possessed" by the Meryl Tankard Australian Dance Theatre, a Warhol exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art and "Classic Cezanne" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Jo Litson is an Australian journalist.

*Under the artistic director
Leo Schofield the festival has
become largely a music event.*

A Bountiful and Dramatic 1999?

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Having taken a gloomy year last week of the British theater in 1998, can I hope to be more optimistic about its prospects for 1999? Well, just maybe. Clearly none of the financial, administrative or architectural crises I outlined are going to disappear, but as we approach the end of the century there will have to be some sort of resolution of quite different but not insoluble problems.

What do we know we are going to get? The musical of the year looks quite likely to be a Broadway import, Julie Taymor's "The Lion King," which on a budget of some \$15 million has the dubious distinction of being the most expensive show ever staged anywhere. Without squinting the London production, which opens in September, I have to declare some doubts about the original triumph. Yes, Taymor is an extremely experienced puppeteer and designer, and has commendably taken the original movie in her own unique direction rather than just staging the film as best she could, as was the case with "Beauty and the Beast," the other big Disney stage hit of the 1990s.

And yet I have to declare my terrible secret: I actually prefer "Beauty and the Beast." Not just because it has an infinitely better score, but because it has the courage of its own kitsch. It never pretends to be anything other than late-night, rip-off Rodgers and Hammerstein. "The

Lion King" wants to be good for you; it has a kind of minimalist educational worthiness, like a school project rather than a showbiz celebration, and where was it ever written that musicals were supposed to be good for you?

Elsewhere on the musical front, we are back to Broadway nostalgia. "Oklahoma!" and "West Side Story" will probably run through the West End year. Perhaps more intriguingly, we get from Simon Callow the first new staging over here in about 40 years of "The Pajama Game." But 1999 may well prove more notable in the regions than in town: The rebuilt Manchester Royal Exchange offers Tom Courtenay as King Lear, David Threlfall as Peer Gynt and Richard Wilson in "Waiting for Godot." And thanks to the great Japanese director Yukio Ninagawa we will also get a "King Lear" with Nigel Hawthorne.

Farther north, the Glasgow Citizens will celebrate the Noel Coward centennial in characteristically adventurous spirit with his epic "Cavalcade," while the National Theatre in London will offer up "Private Lives" starring Juliet Stevenson. At the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds, Ian McKellen is ending his residency with "The Tempest." Timothy West and Prunella Scales, meanwhile, will take Harold Pinter's "The Birthday Party" on the road, and the veteran Dulcie Gray will offer a first staging of the classic film comedy "The Ladykillers."

Back in the capital, Robert Lindsay will bring his Royal Shakespeare Com-

pany "Richard III" into the Savoy, Sheila Hancock will do a rare revival of Gorky's "Vassa" for the Almeida and, in a good time for Russian rediscoveries, Alan Ayckbourn will take Ostrovsky's "The Forest" to the National. Michael Frayn's brilliant, intellectually demanding atom play, "Copenhagen," moves from the National to the Duchess, while Richard Nelson's intriguing account of the birth of the BBC, "Goodnight Children Everywhere," comes from Stratford to the Barbican for the RSC.

Major revivals are planned of David Hare's "Plenty" (with Cate Blanchett, who starred in the film "Elizabeth"), Anthony Shaffer's "Sleuth" and Tom Stoppard's "The Real Thing." In addition, there will be one of the greatest of all 1980s plays, the late C.P. Taylor's collaborationist classic "Good."

In terms of the traffic from London to New York, we have gone back to plays rather than musicals. Hare's backstage "Amy's View" sets up Judi Dench among the Tony contenders, while the playwright will also be playing his own Israel solo, "Via Dolorosa."

"The Weir," the Diana Rigg Racine double ("Phedre" and "Britannicus") and the Zoe Wanamaker "Electra" are a few of our "legit" gifts to the Great White Way, while in return we are still supposed to be getting Christopher Plummer's "Barnum." There is also talk of Sheila Gish appearing in Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer," and of Hal Prince directing a new version of "Miss Julie" by Frank McGuinness.

So maybe things aren't looking so bad after all.

GLAMORAMA

By Bret Easton Ellis. 482 pages. \$25. Alfred A. Knopf.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

BRET EASTON ELLIS doesn't need the National Lampoon to turn him into a parody — with "Glamorama," he's done it himself.

This glitzy, hedonistic, and somewhat tedious novel takes all the most glaring flaws of Ellis's recent work — compulsive name-dropping, an obsession with designer clothing, a fascination with gratuitous, gruesome violence and a cast of interchangeable famous people — and tries to pass them off as a novel.

The book's sloppily contrived plot concerns the adventures of an MTA (model turned actor) and his encounters (or perceived encounters) with a group of MTTs — that is, a group of models turned terrorists who wear Kevlar-lined Armani suits and blow up hotels, subways and airplanes with bombs carefully packed in Prada backpacks. The result isn't the amusing satire that such a summary

might suggest. The result is a lugubrious, repetitious tale that crams more celebrity names and more designer labels between two covers than any book in recent memory, with the possible exception of Andy Warhol's "Diaries" — a work, unlike "Glamorama," that at least had the lure of real gossip to engage the reader's interest.

The sociological observation that animated Ellis's first novel, "Less Than Zero" (1985), has given way to mindless W-like recitations of guest lists and celebrity sightings, gussied up with some heavy-metal horror and pages and pages of crashingly awful dialogue that would make Judith Krantz cringe.

People in "Glamorama" say things like "You know I put the stud back in star-studded" and "Take your passion and make it happen." They talk about "power florists" and "spokesmannequins," and they boast about knowing people who signed suicide notes with smiley faces. The most important things in the world to them are designer clothes, good tans, great abs (men), toned arms (women) and glossy photos of them-

selves in trendy magazines. Certainly this world of jaded narcissists will be familiar to readers of Ellis's earlier work. In fact several of the characters in this novel are slightly older versions of people who appeared in his 1987 college novel "The Rules of Attraction." They have left Camden College, migrated to New York and become part of the club scene.

Victor, the narrator of this book, is supposedly the "It Boy of the moment" — a "hip, happening, gorgeous young thing" who, in addition to modeling and acting, is helping his boss, Damien, open a new club in Manhattan. Victor is not only dating the "supermodel" Chloe, but he's also carrying on with Alison, Damien's fiancée, and Lauren, Damien's girlfriend. Needless to say, all these liaisons get Victor into trouble, and when a mysterious, man named Palakon offers him \$300,000 to go to Europe and find a former Camden classmate named Jamie Fields, he readily agrees.

In Europe, Victor meets a lot of celebrities, and he also meets a famous model named Bobby Hughes who runs a terrorist cell made up of high-profile models recruited for their ability to stand around and take directions.

Bobby's gang, which now includes Victor, blows up a political studies center in Paris, a Parisian café, an underground train, the Ritz Hotel and a 747 flight to New York, in the process killing and maiming scores of people. They also torture several friends to death and murder one of Victor's girlfriends.

Ellis uses these incidents to indulge his grisly taste for death and mutilation. In pages reminiscent of Ellis's willfully perverse novel "American Psycho" (1990), the reader is subjected to detailed,

even rapacious descriptions of people losing limbs and other body parts and dying in pain and humiliation.

These scenes, Ellis suggests, may or may not be part of a movie starring Victor. It's also possible that they are scenes in a real-life snuff film, or, given Victor's fondness for chemicals, hallucinations in his drug-addled brain.

By the end of this interminable novel, the reader is too numb, too bored to really care about such distinctions. Nor does one care about the flimsy morals Ellis tries to attach to his story: that the selfish, image-obsessed world inhabited by Victor and his friends can easily mutate into a world in which people are treated as disposable objects, that reality in a world based on appearances is elusive, that narcissism is akin to nihilism and nihilism to murder.

It's awfully hard to make the leap Ellis wants us to make from the world of beautiful narcissists to the world of cold-blooded killers: There are, after all, differences between models, however self-absorbed, and bloodthirsty serial killers: there are differences between fashion-obsessed hipsters and Hitler, whom Ellis has the nerve to quote in an epigraph to this novel. ("You make a mistake if you see what we do as merely political.")

It is equally hard to understand why Ellis wants to spend so much time (in this novel and every other book he has written) chronicling a world he seems to recognize as shallow, mercenary, cynical and meaningless — a world he glamorizes as much he debunks it. This time around, it results in characters whom the reader and Ellis have nothing but contempt for, and a novel, as Victor might say, that "equals yuck."

New York Times Service

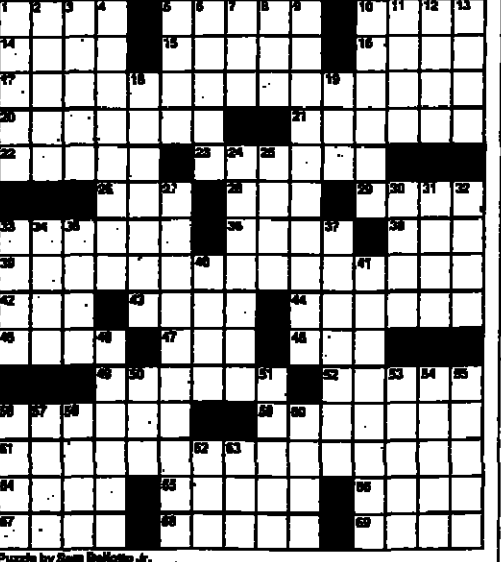
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Add-ons
- 5 Freightliner Red
- 10 Shale
- 14 Outdoor party
- 15 Mimi's thanks
- 16 Meteorological effect
- 17 Pump kin?
- 20 American change
- 21 Zoo creatures
- 22 Fly, as a voiceover
- 23 No-goodnik
- 25 Yank's foe
- 26 Mediums for announcements, in brief
- 28 Gandhi, for one
- 30 Bar order
- 32 12 points
- 34 Award bestowed by Queen Elizabeth
- 36 Mush room?
- 40 Surf sound
- 44 Large's opposite
- 45 Letters at Camp Lejeune
- 47 Some forensic evidence
- 48 Priest of Samuel
- 49 Having handies
- 50 Not tarry to marry
- 51 Accelerate

DOWN

- 2 Colts may be found here
- 3 Car rot?
- 4 Wedlock, so to speak
- 6 TV area Arledge
- 8 Umbrian tourist town
- 9 Sensible
- 11 Tie up
- 12 "— open fire"
- 13 Composer knighted in 1904
- 14 Pulitzer-winning author Alison
- 16 Scott with a lot of kind of sick
- 18 Marc Antony's love
- 19 Star in Cyprus
- 20 "You — here"
- 21 Suffr with electron
- 22 Mankin's old
- 23 Worker measure
- 24 "It was — mistake"
- 25 Rogers and others
- 26 Office photo
- 27 Math. course
- 28 Political power structure



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BEST SELLERS

The New York Times		Last Week	
Fiction		Nonfiction	
1	A MAN IN FULL, by Tom Wolfe	1	THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS 1999
2	BAG OF BONES, by Stephen King	2	THE 9 STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM, by Suzi Orman
3	RAINBOW SIX, by Tom Clancy	3	SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Sarah Ban Breathnach
4	MIRROR IMAGE, by Danielle Steel	4	EMERIL'S TV DINNERS, by Emeril Lagasse
5	THE SIMPLE TRUTH, by David Baldacci	5	THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, by Laura Segalinger and Stewart Vogel
6	THE POISONWOOD BIBLE, by Barbara Kingsolver	6	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
7	WHEN THE WIND BLOWS, by James Patterson	7	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
8	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS, by J.K. Rowling	8	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
9	THE VAMPIRE ARCADE, by Anne Rice	9	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
10	A NIGHT WITHOUT ARMOR, by David Copperfield	10	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
11	ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT, by Mary Higgins Clark	11	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
12	CHARMING BILLY, by The McBeths	12	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
13	MEMOIRS OF A CEBISHA, by Arthur Golden	13	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
14	TODAY I FEEL LIKE A LADY, by Jamie Lee Curtis	14	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald
15	THE LOCKER, by Robert Paul Barnes	15	THE GREAT GATSBY, by F. Scott Fitzgerald

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A-B-C

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THE following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various offices of the State of New York, for the year 1888, by the Governor, under the provisions of the Constitution of the State, and the laws relating to the same. The names are given in alphabetical order, and the offices to which they have been appointed are given in parentheses. The names of the persons who have been appointed to the offices of the State, for the year 1888, by the Governor, under the provisions of the Constitution of the State, and the laws relating to the same, are given in alphabetical order, and the offices to which they have been appointed are given in parentheses.

Continued on Page 14

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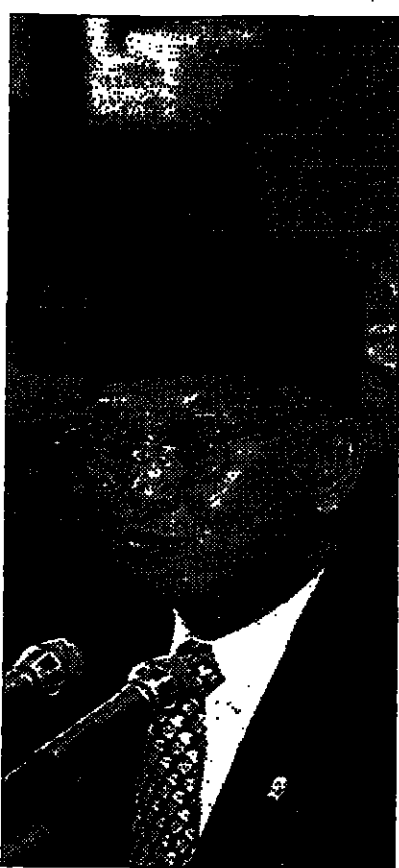
Indonesia Takes Aim At Poverty

Apple Fest

New Budget Features Help With Basic Items

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Conscious of the burden being borne by millions of ordinary Indonesians reel-



President B. J. Habibie delivering the national budget speech Tuesday in Parliament in Jakarta.

Financial markets greeted the budget warmly, with the benchmark Jakarta composite index rising 3.7 percent, to 408.70 points. The rupiah strengthened, with the dollar slipping to 7,400 rupiah from 8,000 rupiah Monday.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, NYT, AP) -

Italy Raises the Possibility of a Rate Cut, but Elsewhere the Emphasis Is Mostly on Stability

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

than Europe's, creating a difference in interest rates across the Atlantic that would cause the euro to strengthen by June to \$1.31. On Tuesday, its second day of trading, the euro stood at \$1.1778, against a Monday close of \$1.1828.

indeed, on Tuesday, the German economics institute DIW cut its 1999 growth forecast for the 11-country eurozone to just 1.9 percent, saying that weak global demand would result in falling exports. (Page 13)

Gustav Adolf Horn, a DIW econ-

In Cologne, Reinhard Kudiss, senior economist at the Federation of German Industries, also took the view that the

• Societe Generale in Paris announced a 1.5 billion euro convertible bond issue for Vivendi SA, an infrastructure and public-works group, the first convertible

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

The shares, which are the fourth most heavily weighted in the 30-share blue-

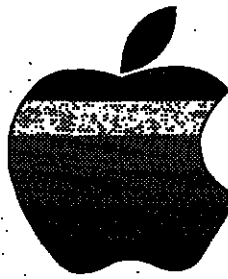
The profit increase seems anemic by past growth standards for SAP, which stands out as a European success story in an industry dominated by U.S. software giants. The 15-percent pretax-profit rise

In Russia, the company's pretax earnings fell 40 million DM behind projections. Analysts who follow the company said Russian customers appeared

in the next three years, partly because it has hired 6,500 specialists to market R/3. It also expects growth in the future from a plethora of new programs to run on the R/3 platform.

By Hiawatha Bray
The Boston Globe

[Apple said Tuesday it had sold 800,000 iMac computers since their introduction, and it announced a lower-priced, multicolored line-up of the machines, Reuters reported. Apple said it would offer the new iMacs with a faster processor and



It remains unclear whether Apple can maintain its recent profit level while selling cheaper machines. The company's gross margin on sales was a healthy 25 percent in the last quarter of 1998, but even Apple officials predict that this will come down because of the need to slash prices.

[illegible]

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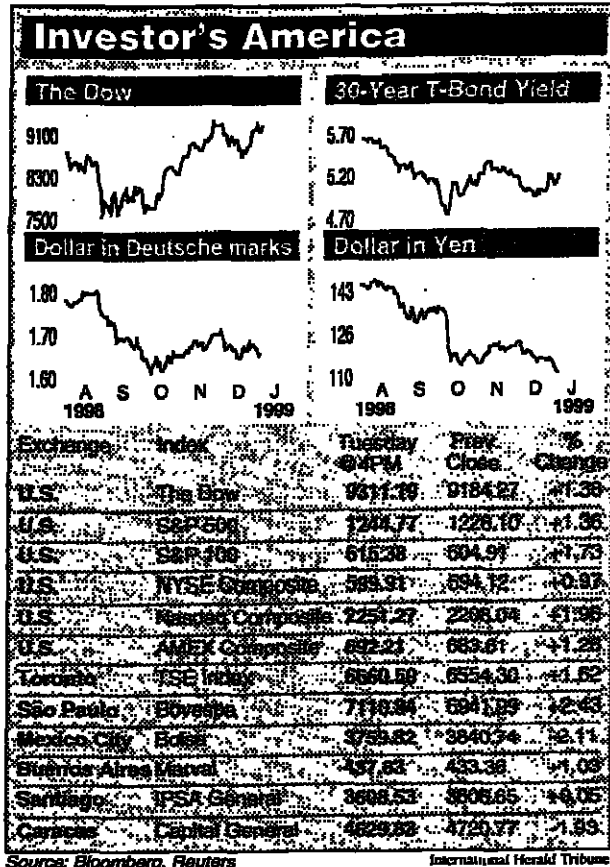
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THE AMERICAS

Officials Predict Clinton Won't Back Curbs on Steel Imports



Very briefly:

- CBS is replacing ABC as the exclusive broadcast-news provider to America Online Inc., a boost for CBS Corp. as it tries to catch up to rival news organizations with more popular Internet sites. CBS News will provide text, audio and video to AOL, the world's largest on-line service.
- Kellogg Co. named Carlos Gutierrez chief executive, succeeding Arnold Langbo, as the cereal maker seeks to turn around its ailing U.S. business. Mr. Gutierrez, 45, now president and chief operating officer, wants Kellogg to focus on bolstering revenue, as opposed to cutting costs.
- Hewlett-Packard Co., the No. 1 maker of ink-jet printers, settled its 16-month-old lawsuit against Xerox Corp. that said the world's top copier maker had violated H-P's trademarks on toner-cartridge packaging. Xerox, which will not pay damages, agreed to change its packaging to remove a reference to H-P's LaserJet.
- The Philippines filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to sell a \$750 million two-tranche global bond.
- Worldwide semiconductor sales fell 9 percent to \$134 billion in 1998 because of overcapacity and lower demand in Asia, Dataquest said.

Amazon's Sales Tripled in 4th Period

NEW YORK — Amazon.com Inc. said Tuesday its fourth-quarter sales more than tripled from a year earlier, helped by a strong holiday season when more than a million new customers bought from the giant on-line bookseller.

But the company said the sales surge, to about \$250 million, would not reduce its expected loss for the quarter. Wall Street analysts predict it will post a loss equal to about 56 cents a share. Amazon.com's stock fell almost 10 percent in early trading before rebounding. The shares finished up \$6.1875 at \$124.50, reflecting a 3-for-1 stock split that took effect Tuesday.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes					Most Actives				
Dow Jones					NYSE				
Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Index	9100.25	9080.25	9090.25	+100.00	AmOnline	12200	121.00	120.50	+0.50
Indust	3280.25	3270.25	3275.25	+10.00	AmGen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Transp.	1100.25	1090.25	1095.25	+10.00	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Energy	2100.25	2090.25	2095.25	+10.00	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Health	2100.25	2090.25	2095.25	+10.00	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Finance	2100.25	2090.25	2095.25	+10.00	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Standard & Poors					Nasdaq				
Premium					Vol.				
High	Low	Chg.	Ytd		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Industries	1502.92	1465.44	1476.40	+10.96	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Transp.	475.17	465.66	467.42	+11.76	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Energy	261.80	258.54	259.29	+2.75	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Health	130.41	129.75	130.57	+0.82	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
Finance	134.05	129.10	128.10	-4.95	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
SP 500	618.86	606.62	608.59	+11.93	Amgen	10000	100.00	99.50	+0.50
NYSE					AMEX				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Nasdaq					Dow Jones Bond				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Trading Activity				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
AMEX					Market Sales				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Dow Jones Bond					Nasdaq				
High	Low	Last	Chg.		High	Low	Last	Chg.	
Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50		Amgen	100.00	99.50	+0.50	
Amgen	100.00	99							

EUROPE

Firm Cuts Forecast for Euro Zone's Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BERLIN — The economic research institute DIW reduced its 1999 growth forecasts Tuesday for Germany and the so-called Euro zone and urged the European Central Bank to cut interest rates in the 11-country bloc.

DIW cut its 1999 growth forecast for Germany, Europe's largest economy, to 1.4 percent from its estimate made last July of 2.1 percent growth and said a weaker export outlook would shave one percentage point from growth rates in the 11 countries that adopted the European Union's new common currency this year.

"Due to the worldwide economic slowdown, the European Central Bank must, like the U.S. Federal Reserve, try to strengthen the trust of investors in future economic developments with further interest-rate cuts," the institute said in a

report on the 1999 economy. The institute forecast growth across the euro zone of 1.9 percent in 1999, compared with 2.8 percent in 1998.

DIW reiterated its call for the European Central Bank to lower its benchmark interest rate from 3 percent and urged the German government to allow its public debt to rise as growth slowed. It also called for wage increases to remain moderate.

Harald Joerg, an analyst at Dresdner Bank, said the DIW report was too gloomy and said strong domestic demand would probably offset the impact of weak exports.

"We still maintain our forecast of 2.5 percent growth, and we see so far no reasons for downward revisions," Mr. Joerg said. "So far, I do not see any reason to be so strongly pessimistic."

Olaf Liedtke, an analyst at Hessische Landesbank in Frankfurt, put

German growth for 1999 at between 2 percent and 2.25 percent. "One should remember that DIW tends to be more pessimistic, and its forecast should be viewed with some caution," he said.

DIW is one of six leading economic research institutes in Germany. In their autumn report, the six institutes forecast growth of 2.3 percent in gross domestic product this year after growth of 2.8 percent in 1998.

The Munich-based Ifo institute has already cut its growth forecast for 1999 to 1.7 percent, and, at the beginning of December, the government said it was predicting growth of only 2 percent this year.

Heiner Flassbeck, formerly the head of research at DIW, is now an undersecretary of finance and a key adviser to Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine.

"Lafontaine's Finance Ministry is calling for higher fiscal spending to stabilize economic growth," said Stefan Schneider, an economist at Banque Paribas. "The DIW forecast might be overly pessimistic to justify the more interventionist policy approach."

German exports will slump 1 percent this year after double-digit growth in the past two years, the DIW forecast said. Private consumption will help keep economic growth on track, the institute said, as will wage increases, stable employment and a somewhat lower tax burden.

But unemployment is expected to remain high, with the jobless rate at an average of 10.9 percent in 1999 after 11.1 percent last year. The average number of unemployed people during the year will stay above 4 million, the research group said.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Prague Fires Directors of Electric Utility

Bloomberg News

PRAGUE — The government fired the entire board of directors of CEZ AS, the Czech Republic's main electric utility, Tuesday and replaced four of the six members of its supervisory board to increase its control over the company.

Shareholders led by the government, which owns about 70 percent of CEZ, voted to dismiss all seven directors and named a five-member board that included Zdenek Vorlicek, deputy minister of industry and trade. Mr. Vorlicek said the new board would scrutinize spending to prevent "socially unacceptable" increases in electricity prices and to enhance competitiveness.

"I think it's necessary to look at CEZ's finances and the cost trends so that in future years the company conducts its business in a more prudent way," he said.

A Social Democratic government took office in Prague in July and indicated that it would make changes at companies in which the state had significant holdings. It has already replaced some board members at SPT Telecom AS, the national phone company, and Komerční banka AS, the biggest Czech bank in terms of assets. It is expected to take similar steps at Ceska Sportelina, the second-largest bank, and Unipetrol AS, an oil holding company.

Mr. Vorlicek also said CEZ should award more contracts to Czech companies.

He said too much of the 46 billion koruna (\$1.52 billion) that the utility had spent on upgrading its coal-fired power plants to meet stricter environmental standards had gone to foreign companies.

CEZ has a 77 percent share of the wholesale Czech electricity market. It will record a profit for 1998 of 6 billion to 7.5 billion koruna, compared with 5.12 billion koruna in 1997, said Petr Voboril, the executive economic director. The projection is according to international accounting standards.

CEZ benefited from a stronger koruna in 1998, which lowered its debt-service costs and allowed it to reduce its reserves against potential foreign-exchange losses.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
6000	6100	4400
5500	5800	4100
5000	5500	3800
4500	5200	3500
4000	4900	3200
3500	4600	2900
3000	4300	2600
2500	4000	2300
2000	3700	2000
1500	3400	1700
1000	3100	1400
500	2800	1100
0	2500	800

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

• Russia's economy contracted by 5 percent last year, its biggest decline since 1994, as soaring interest rates and a plunging ruble curbed companies' ability to finance operations and carry out payments, the Ministry of Economy said. The government is expected to publish official gross domestic product figures for 1998 in mid-January.

• Credit Lyonnais SA confirmed that its staff council would meet next Wednesday to discuss job cuts, but a spokesman for the French state-owned bank said the number of cuts involved would be 546 this year, not the 1,500 reported in the press.

• Sweden plans to sell its 7 percent stake in the pharmaceutical group Pharmacia & Upjohn Inc. to use the taxpayers' money in a "more professional way," the government said. The plan was in response to a recent rise in the price of shares in the company.

• LucasVarity PLC, a maker of automotive brakes, is in talks that may lead to a merger, people familiar with the situation said, as the British company tries to catch up with rivals that have grown through a spate of acquisitions.

• Hays PLC acquired 97 percent of the France Partner group of companies, a French express delivery company, for 150 million French francs (\$27 million), as it develops its European mail and express business. The British support services company will buy the remaining 3 percent in 2000 for as much as 50 million francs.

• Bouygues SA, Europe's largest construction company, sold 1 billion French francs in new shares in its water utility Saur to an unidentified investment fund to finance the subsidiary's international development.

APR. Bloomberg, Reuters

Vodafone Talks With AirTouch About Merger

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Vodafone Group PLC, the No. 1 British mobile-phone service company, said Tuesday it had entered talks with AirTouch Communications Inc., the world's largest, about a "possible merger."

The announcement followed a report in The Wall Street Journal's on-line edition that Vodafone had offered more than \$45 billion for AirTouch to top a rival bid from the Bell Atlantic Corp. of the United States. Vodafone gave no details and said, "There can be no assurance that any agreement can or will be reached."

Reports that Bell Atlantic, the largest U.S. local phone company, was negotiating to buy AirTouch surfaced last week, and both companies have since confirmed the discussions. Neither company would comment on the price or say when they expected a decision.

Vodafone has long been viewed as a possible partner for San Francisco-based AirTouch because their combined European businesses have little overlap and they are partners in Swedish and Egyptian mobile-phone businesses. AirTouch also has businesses in the United States and the Asia/Pacific region.

Some analysts said they thought the two companies would end up splitting AirTouch.

"I don't see any reason why they couldn't first sell domestic properties to Bell Atlantic and then sell international to Vodafone," said Charles DiSanzo, an analyst at Gerard Kleiner Matison & Co.

"I don't think Vodafone wants the whole of AirTouch. I think that what it does want is the European properties," said John Tysoe, an analyst at SG Securities.

But some analysts expressed doubt that Bell Atlantic would want to part with AirTouch's lucrative international assets.

"I don't see why it would pay a fortune for AirTouch, only to then decide that actually we're going to sell the most interesting bits to Vodafone," one analyst said, although he did not name a deal.

Vodafone shares rose 6 percent to close at £10.85 (\$18.02) in London. AirTouch shares were up \$5.0625 at

\$73.3125 in late New York trading.

Buying AirTouch would give Bell Atlantic a nationwide U.S. mobile-phone network to compete better with the coast-to-coast providers AT&T Corp., Nextel Communications Inc. and Sprint PCS. Bell Atlantic and AirTouch already have a mobile-phone joint venture, PrimeCo Personal Communications AS, an Atlantic's pending purchase of GTE Corp. will add mobile-phone customers.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

U.K. Agency Seeks Talks on Griffin Failure

Bloomberg News

LONDON — The Securities and Futures Authority is hoping to meet this week with traders whose accounts were frozen as a result of losses by the Chicago-based firm Griffin Trading Co.

The authority, which along with the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange and the London Clearing House, Britain's main clearing of trades in financial instruments, is looking into losses by Griffin, which clears fu-

tures trades. The Securities and Futures Authority said it wanted to meet with Griffin's clients Thursday, although a date has not been fixed.

Griffin filed for bankruptcy Dec. 30 after an independent London-based trader lost about \$10 million on trades he made on German government bond contracts listed on the Swiss-German derivatives market Eurex. The loss left Griffin, as guarantor of the trades, unable to meet its obligations.

The closing of Griffin resulted in

the freezing of the capital of some independent traders who had accounts with the firm.

Its closing also has led to calls for the clearing institutions to separate individual clients' accounts whose transactions they clear and guarantee from their other accounts.

The Securities and Futures Authority said it had not announced it would review the industry, but it would not rule out amending regulations if the Griffin case showed problems with the current system.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Prices in local currencies

in euros for EMU countries.

Telecom

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

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Johannesburg

Prices in local currencies

in rands for EMU countries.

Telecom

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London

Prices in local currencies

in pounds for EMU countries.

Telecom

High Low Close Prev.

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YEN: Dollar Falls as Tokyo Aide Sees 'Bubble-Like' U.S. Economy

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Most U.S. Defense Firms Fared Badly in Economic Storms of '98

By Tim Smart
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Aerospace and defense stocks are supposed to be immune from the economic downturn in turbulent times such as those witnessed by investors last year. Military spending tends to be countercyclical to the general economy, and the industry is viewed as less volatile than others.

But it didn't turn out that way in 1998. Some of the biggest U.S.-based aerospace companies found their shares hammered as a variety of problems surfaced to rattle investors, from Asia's economic crisis to slowdowns and other glitches in key weapons programs.

While the Standard & Poor's 500-share index, a proxy for the overall market, rose 26 percent in 1998, the S&P aerospace-sector index was down nearly 10 percent. Some individual stocks were off more sharply, such as Northrop Grumman Corp., down 36.4 percent, Boeing Co., down 33.2 percent, and Lockheed Martin Corp., down 13.5 percent.

A lot of the underperformance in the group can be traced to Boeing, which suffered from production problems in its civil-aircraft business and declines in orders from Asian airlines. The Seattle-based company recently announced production cutbacks on its highly profitable 747 and popular 737 jetliners.

But Boeing was not alone in feeling the disfavor of investors. Lockheed Martin surprised shareholders late in the year when it said its fourth-quarter and full-year earnings would be well below analysts' estimates and the company's own forecasts.

Lockheed blamed the problem on delays in deliveries of its C-130J cargo plane, the inability to complete a \$7 billion order of F-16 fighters from the United Arab Emirates and delays in commercial satellite launches.

Some companies bucked the trend. Raytheon Co. gained 2 percent, while General Dynamics Corp. posted a stellar 37.5 percent return. Analysts consider General Dynamics to be the best-managed of the major defense firms.

Many of the problems in the industry were not due to cutbacks in defense spending or, with the exception of Asia, a weak commercial aviation market.

Boeing delivered 550 jetliners last year and plans to increase that to 620 this year, but with orders softening, the company may see production stall after 2000.

"They were self-inflicted wounds," said William Fiala, an analyst at Edward D. Jones & Co.

Looking ahead, analysts remain cautious on the outlook for defense stocks. Whether Boeing can rebound depends mostly on the state of the economy in Asia, while Lockheed's management will need to rebuild credibility with Wall Street in the wake of its recent earnings shortfall. One analyst who has his doubts is Peter Asceritis of Credit Suisse First Boston, who said the industry did a masterful job of concealing its weaknesses in recent years by engaging in a wave of multibillion-dollar mergers.

Mr. Asceritis also said Wall Street had underestimated how dependent the

companies, particularly Boeing, were on international sales.

"U.S. defense budgets have gone down for 13 years," Mr. Asceritis said. "The way the companies hid those declining sales was through mergers and

Mergers and acquisitions in the industry served mainly to conceal falling sales and other weaknesses.

acquisitions." One of the bright spots in the otherwise dismal U.S. trade balance in recent years has been the surplus created by exports in the aerospace industry. Last year was no exception to the long-running trend, with the industry's trade surplus hitting \$37 billion, a 15 percent increase from 1997.

Much of the credit for the sector's

burgeoning trade surplus, which has grown nearly 50 percent since 1994, comes from record exports of civilian aircraft.

"This year's trade surplus maintains the aerospace industry's lead in holding the highest trade balance of all industries in the nation," said John Douglass, the president of the Aerospace Industries Association.

In 1998, according to association figures, the United States exported \$59 billion of aerospace products and imported \$22 billion.

But even the import numbers, which are nearly double the volume of five years ago, are misleading, as they include British- and French-made engines that go into Boeing aircraft that are then sold to airlines around the world.

Most of the exports are commercial rather than military, said Joel Johnson, vice president of international affairs for

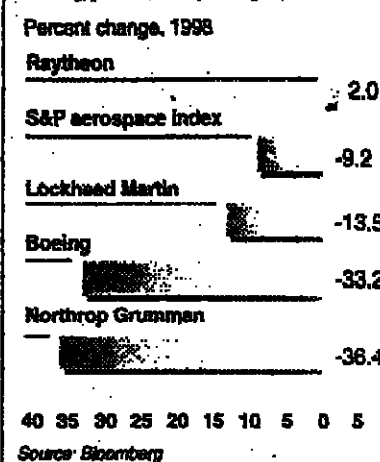
the industries' association. The exports helped stabilize employment in the industry, which had been on a downward trajectory with the decline in military spending after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. The aerospace industry employs about 900,000 people in the United States.

"We bottomed out, really, in 1995 and 1996, and we've been coming up ever since," Mr. Johnson said.

How long the rosy trade picture in aerospace can continue is a question of some concern in the industry. The Asian economic crisis has led some airlines in the region to cancel orders from Boeing. In addition, military budgets in general are not growing and in many cases are declining, and some of the biggest purchasers of U.S. weaponry have seen their country's income fall dramatically with the slide in the price of oil.

The Aerospace Dive

The S&P aerospace index was down nearly 10 percent for 1998, with Northrop Grumman and Boeing having particularly tough years.



Somerfield Moves Up the U.K. Food Chain

Bloomberg News

LONDON — Somerfield PLC, the United Kingdom's fifth-largest supermarket chain, has emerged from the shadows of its higher-profile rivals to become one of the best-performing retail stocks in Europe, and analysts say its season in the sun will not end soon.

The company's shares soared 91 percent in 1998, compared with a 1 percent gain in the food retailing index on the Financial Times Stock Exchange 350-share index.

But even after such gains, few analysts recommend selling the company's shares.

Somerfield's £473 million (\$718 million) acquisition of Kwik Save PLC spurred enthusiasm for the chain. The takeover, completed in March, is expected to generate annual cost savings of £70 million by allowing better terms with suppliers.

And many analysts say the benefits should not stop there.

"You ain't seen nothing yet," said Jonathan Pritchard, an analyst at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. "All the market has done has priced in the merger benefits."

The current share price, he said, "isn't giving the management any credit" for its ability to increase sales as it converts lackluster Kwik Save stores into Somerfield supermarkets.

The acquisition more than doubled Somerfield's number of stores to 1,400, and the company, based in Bristol, England, plans to spend £1 billion on integrating the chain over the next four to five years.

It wants to convert 62 Kwik Saves to Somerfield stores by the end of its 1999 financial year and about 770 stores over five years. It also plans to close about 100 Kwik Save stores.

The conversions should pay off. Sales at the Somerfield stores are growing faster than at some of the retailer's larger rivals.

In the first 16 weeks of its current financial year, a period that ended in mid-August, Somerfield's growth rate in same-store sales was 3.8 percent, twice the same-store growth the stores achieved in the year to April. By comparison, Tesco PLC, the largest U.K. supermarket chain, showed a growth rate of 2.5 percent in the five weeks that ended Sept. 19.

A share-price comparison is more striking. Somerfield's 91 percent rise in 1998 compares with a rise of 4 percent for Tesco. Shares in Sainsbury, the No. 2 supermarket operator, dropped 5 percent, while Asda Group PLC, the No. 3 retailer, fell 9 percent.

Yet shares in Somerfield, which has 7 percent of the U.K. food-retailing market, are still cheaper than those of most rivals. Its price/earnings

ratio of 12.41 compares with 18.28 for Tesco, 16.04 for J. Sainsbury PLC and 14.99 for Asda.

Analysts said Somerfield's first-half results, due Jan. 19, could spark further gains.

"The results will be quite respectable," said Alexia Walker, an analyst at Williams de Broe, who has a "trading buy" rating on the stock.

"The shares are on a low rating, and if the results are OK, they should rise."

But some warned that earnings growth may be harder to come by once the savings from the Kwik Save acquisition have been realized.

Paul Smiddy, an analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities, said he doubted that former Kwik Save customers would be prepared to pay an estimated 5 percent more for their goods once the discount stores were converted to the more upscale Somerfield format.

He stands alone among analysts polled by Bloomberg News with his recommendation to reduce buying of Somerfield shares.

But others, such as David Stoddart at Henderson Crosthwaite, warn that Somerfield could "get caught in the crossfire" as its larger rivals cut prices and the company struggled to expand same-store sales.

Recently, Asda said it would cut the price of 2,000 products in January by as much as 50 percent.

PANDA SICAV
Société d'Investissement à
Capital Variable
R.C. Luxembourg B 58.116

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of PANDA SICAV will be held at the Registered Office in Luxembourg, 10A, Boulevard Royal, on:

Monday 18th January, 1999 at 11 a.m.,

for the purpose of considering the following Agenda:

1. Management Report of the Directors for the year ended 30th September, 1998.
2. Report of the Auditor for the year ended 30th September, 1998.
3. Approval of the Annual Accounts as at 30th September, 1998 and appropriation of the earnings.
4. Discharge to the Directors in respect of the execution of their mandates to 30th September, 1998.
5. Composition of the Board of Directors.
6. Election of the Auditor for a new term of one year.
7. Miscellaneous.

The present notice and a form of proxy are sent to all registered shareholders on record at 6th January, 1999.

In order to attend the meeting, the owners of bearer shares are required to deposit their shares before January 12th, 1999 at the Registered Office.

The registered shareholders have to inform by mail (letter or proxy form) the Board of Directors of their intention to attend the meeting before January 12th, 1999.

By order of the Board of Directors

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For information please contact:
Katy Hour: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: funds@ht.com

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Ryan, Brett And Yount Voted Into Hall of Fame

Brett's Kansas City Royals.
The Hall's membership could increase again on March 2 when the Veterans Committee votes in Tampa, Florida. Bill Mazeroski, Orlando Cepeda, Dom DiMaggio and Dick Williams, a former manager, will all draw support.

S DAILY NEWSPAPER

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

SPORTS



The Vols' Peerless Price outrunning the Seminoles' Mario Edwards for a score.

Tennessee Hangs On to Win National Title

Price Is Peerless and Vols' Defense Excels Against Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Staff Writer

TEMPE, Arizona — With help from a remarkable 79-yard touchdown catch in the fourth quarter by the appropriately named Peerless Price, No. 1-ranked Tennessee held on for a tense 23-16 victory over No. 2 Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl, finishing a stirring run to its first national championship since the 1951 season.

The Volunteers (13-0) recorded their first undefeated season since 1938, and it occurred one year after Peyton Manning, the quarterback who was a folk hero at Tennessee, departed for the National Football League.

Tennessee was awarded the national championship trophy on the field immediately after the game, and with one ballgame outstanding, the Volunteers earned all 69 first-place votes in the final Associated Press media poll. Ohio State (11-1), the Sugar Bowl champion, was second, Florida State (11-2) was third, marking the 12th consecutive season it has finished in the top four.

An underdog despite its ranking and record, Tennessee had to survive several late scares.

First, there was a seven-yard touchdown run by Marcus Outzen, the Florida State quarterback, that made the score 23-16 with 3 minutes 42

seconds to play. That was followed by an onside kick that appeared to have been recovered by Florida State's kicker, Sebastian Janikowski. But game officials ruled that Janikowski touched the ball before it had gone the required 10 yards, and replays indicated that the ball bounced up and touched Janikowski just after he kicked it. Bobby Bowden, the Florida State coach, had no complaints.

"I think the call was accurate," said Bowden, whose team was penalized 12 times for 110 yards. "They could have missed the call, but they spotted it. Somehow the ball hit him. The call was a good one by the officials."

Tennessee then took pos-

session and drove toward a game-clinching score, but the tailback Travis Henry fumbled at the Florida State 10-yard line with 1:29 remaining. The linebacker Brian Allen recovered for Florida State.

Given one last chance to tie the game and possibly send it into overtime, however, Bowden elected to call a deep pass play on first down. Outzen heaved the ball more than 50 yards toward the wide receiver Laveranues Coles.

The pass was tipped by one defensive back, then intercepted by Steve Johnson. Minutes later, the celebrating began in earnest among thousands of orange-clad Tennessee fans among the record crowd of 80,470 that included Vice President Al Gore, a native of the state.

Florida State's defense, ranked first in the country in all major categories, got most of the notice during the week-long build up. Instead, it was Tennessee's defense that became the major story in this first national title game of the Bowl Championship Series.

Price, a senior, was a highlight film in a game marred by erratic play on both sides of the ball. He caught a long pass in the second quarter to set up a game-breaking 20-9 advantage. The extra-point attempt was blocked.

Before that score, the Vols had been holding on to a tenuous five-point lead, and had just made a sweet stand on defense after Florida State

had moved to a first down at the Tennessee 26. The Vols stiffened considerably there, and when Outzen was sacked by the tackle Darwin Walker on third down, Florida State was forced to punt.

Tennessee took over at its 20, and three plays later faced a third-and-nine situation at its 21. Price found himself in single coverage against the cornerback Mario Edwards. He ran a simple go route, quickly got a step on the defender, and Martin laid the ball out so that he could catch it in full stride. It was a breathtaking play that marked the beginning of the end for Florida State's hopes of a second national title for Bowden.

In the second quarter, with the game scoreless, Price hauled in a 76-yard pass from Martin, setting up a 24-yard field goal by Jeff Hall. After the kick, Hall took a lovely dive following little contact with Dexter Jackson who was called for a dubious roughing-the-kicker penalty. Tennessee took the three points off the scoreboard and accepted a first down. Two plays later, Martin rolled to his left and found fullback Shawn Bryson open in the flat for a touchdown that gave the Vols a 7-0 lead.

Tennessee expanded the lead almost immediately. Dwayne Goodrich, a cornerback, stepped in front of a down-and-out pass intended for Peter Warrick, intercepted it and made a 54-yard return for a touchdown — Tennessee's second in 25 seconds.

Suddenly, the Volunteers had opened a 14-0 lead on the stunned Seminoles with 13:40 left in the second period.

Amid Flutter of Penalty Flags, Volunteers Cap Perfect Season

Washington Post Staff Writer

TEMPE, Arizona — If you go 13-0, win the murderous Southeastern Conference and beat Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl, you have to be voted No. 1. Case closed. When The Martin lofted that dreamy, 79-yard pass to Peerless Price with nine minutes to play, Tennessee won the national championship. No computer index or poll or silly Bowl Championship Series formula will argue that.

But what a terrible championship game. Bad offense, bad defense, bad kicking games, stupid penalties. The final score was 23-16. You cannot overstate how wretched a performance this was. For both teams. College football came rolling into the weekend with big momentum from some pretty decent New Year's Day bowl games, got pushed to the back burner by the National Football League playoffs, then served up this overcooked dish.

Now, Volunteers folks have waited 47 years for this victory. But Tennessee, from all indications, would have beaten anybody on deck this season. The Vols beat Florida when the

Gators were ranked second in The Associated Press poll, beat Georgia on the road when the Dawgs were ranked No. 7, beat Arkansas when the Hogs were undefeated and ranked No. 10, beat Mississippi in the SEC title game when the Bulldogs were ranked 23rd and beat Florida State in the biggest pressure game of all when the Seminoles were ranked No. 2.

But wouldn't you just love to see Tennessee and Ohio State, which finished the season No. 2, duke it out after a six-day layoff, not a six-week layoff?

Sadly, we are instead left with memories of penalty flags flying, people jumping offside, lining up incorrectly, and running into the kicker. Florida State had 12 penalties for 110 yards and gave away its final chance at getting the ball back by committing yet another personal foul. The Bowl Championship Series got the game it deserved for putting this foolishness on the sporting public all year instead of

holding a playoff. Championship games should feature people making spectacular plays and going boldly for two-pointers at game's end.

It is fitting that FSU's attempted on-side kick with 3 minutes 41 seconds to play was ruled illegal — the Seminoles kicker appeared to have the kick bounce off his own leg — because there is no way in the world this dog of a game deserved a great ending. Tennessee did try to make it dramatic, though, by running and fumbling the ball away in the final 90 seconds. The videotape of this baby should be burned so future generations grow up believing our incessantly hyped games were actually worthy.

It is difficult to imagine the Nos. 1 and 2 teams in the polls could play any worse than Florida State and Tennessee did. Both teams had trouble simply lining up to run a play without drawing a penalty flag. Stretches of the first half looked like high school spring practice. The 30-plus days off the two teams

had obviously created an immensely thick layer of rust. But the Seminoles seemed to sabotage every impressive play they made with a dumb personal foul penalty, which is not exactly a problem of timing or execution.

While Tennessee was guilty only of bad football — a 76-yard pass from Martin to Price that brought the Vols to 12 yards from the goal line was followed by three off-tackle runs for five yards — Florida State was guilty of being dumb. Dexter Jackson first was called for running into the punter, then was called for roughing the kicker on a Tennessee field goal.

The Seminoles quarterback, Marcus Outzen, who replaced the injured Chris Weinke in November, was making only his third start; he found the wide receiver Peter Warrick only once for seven yards.

Anyway, Warrick was clearly the only real weapon the Florida State offense had. Nobody, and that includes the Heisman Trophy winner, Ricky Williams, explodes like Warrick. Tennessee had too good a team, and when it was all over, the ball box was merely a formality.

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

NORTHEAST DIVISION

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

NORTHWEST DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

MONDAY RESULTS

FOOTBALL

THE FINAL AP TOP 25

Top Twenty Five teams in Associated Press final college football poll, with first-place vote in parentheses, records, total points based on 25 points for first-place vote through 1 point for a 25th-place vote and ranking in previous poll.

Record Pts Pts

1. Tennessee (70) 13-0 1,750 1

2. Ohio St. 11-1 1,472 2

3. Florida St. 11-2 1,525 3

4. Arizona 10-2 1,463 4

5. Wisconsin 11-1 1,427 5

COLLEGE BOWL GAME

FIESTA BOWL

MONDAY IN TEMPE, ARIZ.

Tennessee 23, Florida State 16

BASKETBALL

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES

MONDAY RESULTS

TOP 25

Record Pts Pts

1. Cincinnati (12-0) 12-0 1,750 1

2. Duke (13) 13-1 1,498 2

3. Cincinnati (12) 12-0 1,453 3

4. Stanford 11-2 1,419 4

5. Maryland 12-3 1,424 5

6. Kentucky 9-2 1,268 6

7. UCLA 11-1 1,122 7

8. Arizona 10-2 1,099 8

9. Purdue 12-2 1,090 9

10. St. John's 11-2 1,084 10

11. North Carolina 13-1 1,019 11

12. Michigan St. 11-3 1,014 12

13. Indiana 14-3 995 13

14. Auburn 10-3 966 14

15. New Mexico 12-1 742 15

16. Minnesota 9-1 719 16

17. Iowa 11-1 681 17

18. Kansas 9-3 584 18

19. Arkansas 11-2 520 19

20. Syracuse 10-3 346 20

21. Clemson 11-3 259 21

22. Texas Christian 12-2 298 22

23. Oklahoma St. 9-2 193 23

24. Wisconsin 12-3 121 24

25. California 9-2 75 25

Others receiving votes: Ohio St. 66, Oregon 41, Providence 44, Louisville 33, Cal. 31, Charleston 28, Miami 25, Georgia 24, Georgia Tech 23, Duke 22, Duke 21, Duke 20, Duke 19, Duke 18, Duke 17, Duke 16, Duke 15, Duke 14, Duke 13, Duke 12, Duke 11, Duke 10, Duke 9, Duke 8, Duke 7, Duke 6, Duke 5, Duke 4, Duke 3, Duke 2, Duke 1.

LEADING COLLEGES

Now 75, Harvard 71

Syracuse 72, Georgetown 61

Detroit 43, Wis.-Green Bay 37

WOMEN

TOP 25

No. 1, N.C. (12-1) 12-1 1,750 1

No. 13, Duke (11-0) 11-0 1,498 2

No. 14, Virginia Tech (13-0) 13-0 1,453 3

THE AP TOP 25

Top 25 teams in The Associated Press final college basketball poll, with first-place vote in parentheses, records through Jan. 5, total points based on 25 points for first-place vote through 1 point for 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

Record Pts Pts

1. Connecticut (13) 13-0 1,750 1

2. Duke (13) 13-1 1,498 2

3. Cincinnati (12) 12-0 1,453 3

4. Stanford 11-2 1,419 4

5. Maryland 12-3 1,424 5

6. Kentucky 9-2 1,268 6

7. UCLA 11-1 1,122 7

8. Arizona 10-2 1,099 8

9. Purdue 12-2 1,090 9

10. St. John's 11-2 1,084 10

11. North Carolina 13-1 1,019 11

12. Michigan St. 11-3 1,014 12

13. Indiana 14-3 995 13

14. Auburn 10-3 966 14

15. New Mexico 12-1 742 15

16. Minnesota 9-1 719 16

17. Iowa 11-1 681 17

18. Kansas 9-3 584 18

19. Arkansas 11-2 520 19

20. Syracuse 10-3 346 20

21. Clemson 11-3 259 21

22. Texas Christian 12-2 298 22

23. Oklahoma St. 9-2 193 23

24. Wisconsin 12-3 121 24

25. California 9-2 75 25

Others receiving votes: Ohio St. 66, Oregon 41, Providence 44, Louisville 33, Cal. 31, Charleston 28, Miami 25, Georgia 24, Georgia Tech 23, Duke 22, Duke 21, Duke 20, Duke 19, Duke 18, Duke 17, Duke 16, Duke 15, Duke 14, Duke 13, Duke 12, Duke 11, Duke 10, Duke 9, Duke 8, Duke 7, Duke 6, Duke 5, Duke 4, Duke 3, Duke 2, Duke 1.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

MINNESOTA — Agreed to terms with C. Terry Steinbach and 3B Brian Richardson on minor-league contract.

OAKLAND — Signed RHP Kevin Jarvis to minor-league contract.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CAROLINA — Named George Seifert coach.

CHICAGO — Signed OL Greg Huntington, CB Curtis Anderson and DE James Bates to 1-year contracts.

HOUSTON — Signed QB Matt Schaub to 1-year contract.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

NHL — Fined St. Louis \$1.5 million for tampering with New Jersey D Scott Stevens, prior to July 1, 1994 expiration of his contract and ordered club to surrender one 1st-round selection in any of next 5 entry drafts to New Jersey. Awarded New Jersey the one-time right to trade 1st-round selections with St. Louis in any other entry draft in next 5 years.

CALIFORNIA — Recalled F Fred Domonich and F Chris DiMarzio from Salt Lake City. Recalled F Fred Domonich and F Chris DiMarzio from Salt Lake City.

FLORIDA — Recalled F Marcus Nilsson from New Haven. AHL. Put F Alex Hicks on injured reserve.

LOS ANGELES — Activated F Eric Lacroix and F Sandy Mager from injured reserve. Put D Doug Bredin on injured reserve, retroactive to Dec. 29.

MONTREAL — Recalled F Fred Chabot from Houston of AHL.

ST. LOUIS — Assigned C Marty Reasoner to Worcester, AHL.

WASHINGTON — Recalled G Mike Rosol from Portland, AHL.

COLOSADO

BRIGHAM YOUNG — Announced junior OT John Telford will forgo his remaining eligibility and enter NFL draft.

DENNIS THE MENACE

PEANUTS

GARFIELD

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

JUMBLE

TOFLY

GOSUM

YIRAWA

FLUFT

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POSTCARD

Casualties of Mergers

By Irvin Molotsky
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The record number of mergers of large companies into even larger ones last year has raised fears at many arts organizations and other nonprofit groups that a decline in corporate donations may be an unfortunate byproduct.

Several of the merging companies say they will maintain their contributions. But "what usually happens is that the combined companies do not give as much as each company was giving individually," said Ann Kaplan, research director of Giving USA, which tracks contributions. "Companies by their nature are not philanthropic. They are giving to advance their business interests."

Recipients of corporate gifts fear that those interests might change because of shifts in corporate philosophy, overlapping contributions among newly merged companies or the closing of headquarters in cities where a merged partner has long had a presence. Some local arts groups say that even the loss of a modest grant could be detrimental, because contributions from blue-chip companies serve as marks of an organization's value to other potential donors.

There were more than 12,000 mergers in the United States last year, although many of them are still awaiting federal approval. Among the companies involved are major arts patrons like AT&T, Bell Atlantic, BankAmerica, Chrysler and Citicorp.

The role of corporate donations in the arts and other philanthropic activity is huge. Giving USA says that corporations gave \$8.2 billion to nonprofit institutions in 1997, account-

ing for 5.7 percent of all charitable contributions. The share rose to 12 percent when contributions to churches and other religious institutions, which are made largely by individuals, are removed.

Much of this giving is centered on the communities where companies are based, and after mergers they are based in fewer places.

Lee Cassidy of the National Federation of Nonprofits said: "Corporations that establish themselves through headquarters or plants or even sales offices in a community tend to support that community because the people who work for them live in that community."

Take the largest proposed merger of last year: the \$86 billion marriage of Mobil and Exxon. Mobil has been identified with arts giving for years, most prominently as one of the first and largest contributors to public television, including 28 years as sponsor of "Masterpiece Theatre." The series is probably safe for now. While a Mobil spokeswoman declined to comment, WGBH in Boston, the producing station, says that in July Mobil renewed its commitment to the show through 2002.

But arts organizations in the Washington area, where Mobil has its headquarters, are concerned. Although Mobil's marketing and refining headquarters will remain, its top corporate officers will be leaving, along with other highly paid executives and, not incidentally, the people who make decisions on donations.

When Exxon moved to Texas eight years ago, for instance, it phased out much of its support for community organizations in New York.

Athol Fugard Fulfills a Promise to His Mother

By Mel Gussow
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In 1953, Athol Fugard quit the University of Cape Town and hitchhiked through Africa to Port Sudan. Stranded, without money, he booked passage on a tramp steamer, working as "the captain's tiger," or all-purpose assistant. On board, he found time to write his first novel, a book about his mother. But in Fiji, in a fit of desperation, he threw the manuscript into the sea.

Fugard's new play, "The Captain's Tiger," is in previews at the Manhattan Theatre Club, where it is scheduled to open Jan. 12. Subtitled "A Memoir for the Stage," it deals with what happened when Fugard shipped out on the steamer, an experience that represented his coming of age. In a sense, the play is a substitution for that early discarded novel, as an older artist looks back at a turning point in his life.

"What I never realized," he said in an interview, "is that writing 'The Captain's Tiger' fulfills the promise I made to my mother to deliver a body of work of which she would be proud and that would celebrate her by way of that silent dedication behind all of it."

The promise came in a letter he wrote to his mother, Elizabeth, when his ship docked in Honolulu: "If I've the strength to fulfill my destiny it will live when I am no more — and through it, you." He said he might fail as a man but his art would be strong because it was inspired by her virtues: "courage, an indomitable will and faith."

That letter was published some years ago in a critical biography of the playwright. When it was read back to him, his eyes clouded over with emotion. He had forgotten what he had written, and he was moved by what he now remembered and by what had followed in his life.

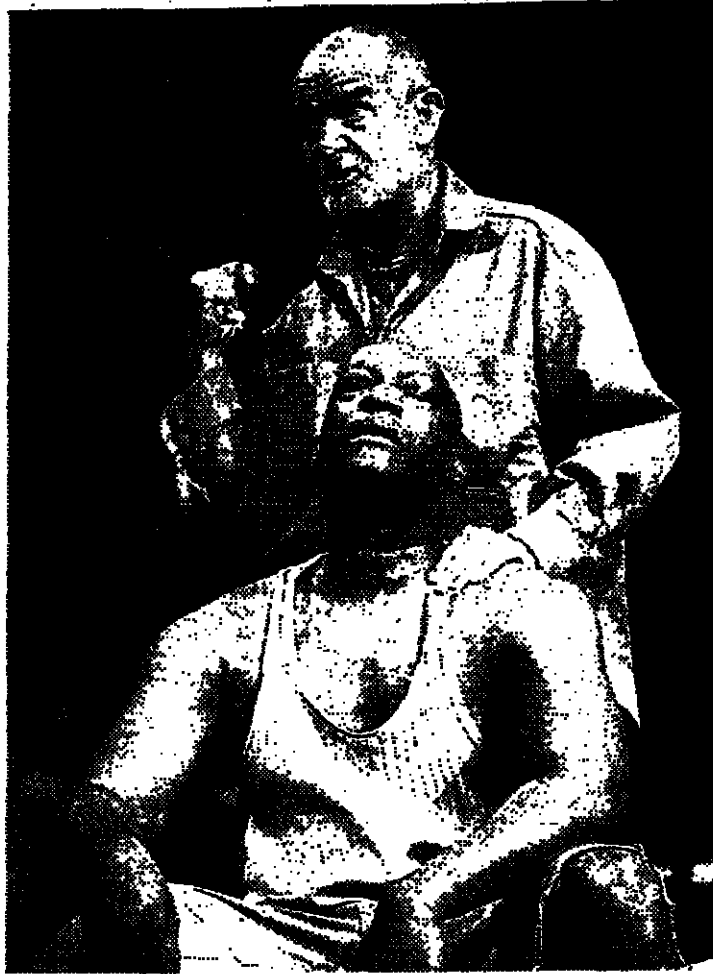
After he told his mother about his decision to leave the university before graduating, she encouraged him in what other parents might have considered to be a foolhardy

venture. When her husband, a pianist in a jazz band, retired and fell into years of defeat and alcoholism, she supported the family by running a café in Port Elizabeth. Scrapping by on her income, she sent her son money to come home. Returning to South Africa, he began his writing career.

Through the years of apartheid, as South Africa's foremost playwright, his voice rang out clearly against racism, oppression and censorship. Plays like "The Blood Knot," "Boesman and Lena" and "A Lesson From Aloes" were conscience-struck about events in his country. All his work seemed to lead to "Master Harold" ... and the Boys" (in 1982), an autobiographical play in which he looked back at his friendship with two black men who were waiters in his mother's café.

Chronologically, "Tiger" follows "Master Harold" and it is something of a sequel. In both plays, he said, "I am at a desk writing, trying to unravel the story of a mother and father, and in each case, a black man is watching him. In 'Tiger,' he has imaginary conversations with his mother as a young woman as he tries to rewrite her life so that it can lead to a happier ending. 'As I saw her life,' he said, "it was unformed and blinded by love, devotion and loyalty." She was a woman who had sacrificed herself for her husband.

The new play is the latest work in Fugard's post-apartheid period. With the election of Nelson Mandela as president of South Africa in 1994 and with the end of apartheid, the playwright wondered if he would be at a loss for material. "South Africa," he said, "had to do a complete 180-degree turn in terms of the political miracle of the 20th century for me to realize that somebody had pulled the plug, in a sense, on what was one source of energy in my work — my feeling of outrage and anger. Then it dawned on me: You're not empty. You're loaded. Empty would be a blessing. There's a wonderful phrase in Kazantzakis where he talks about the need to



Fugard, standing, with Tony Todd in "The Captain's Tiger."

reach your grave unburdened. That will never happen to me, but it's a great sense of unburdened."

To his surprise, after apartheid, Fugard felt a kind of creative liberation. He was "free to tell personal stories that I would have thought of as an indulgence during those years of apartheid," and he still had "an incurable itch to write."

In subsequent plays like "Valley Song" and "Cousins," his 1997 book about two disparate members of his family, he began focusing more on private matters (as he had

in "Master Harold"). With "The Captain's Tiger," as is often the case, the author is also the director and plays the central role.

The third character in the play is an illiterate Swahili stoker called Donkeyman who becomes a friend of the author's and is transfixed by the idea that he is writing a book — and is horrified when he abandons it. With his intensity, Donkeyman is like Cheech and Chong, marveling at the idea of creativity.

The destruction of the manuscript was, for Fugard, an act of

betrayal, akin to the scene in "Master Harold" when his surrogate, Hally, spits at Sam, one of his mother's waiters and the boy's devoted father figure. "My life is littered with betrayals," he admitted, and added, "I think that generates the plays." In the case of the discarded novel, it was a betrayal both of his mother and of Donkeyman.

Asked how he could have thrown away the manuscript, he said: "I think it might have had something to do with the fact that Fiji was the moment of real despair on the entire trip. I felt there were no roads from Fiji to South Africa. That led to drinking, and when I really hit bottom, I got very self-destructive."

But some people who felt so depressed might have jumped overboard. "Survivor," he described himself. "Which saved me so many times on the edge of that cliff." That in effect was the beginning of the new play, although it was more than 40 years before he could write it.

In the intervening time, he endured the hardships of a tumultuous political period — including having his passport taken away by the South African government in 1967 — and he confronted his own alcoholism.

In recent years there have been major changes in his life. He bought a home in Carmel, New York, and divides his time between the United States and South Africa. His daughter, Lisa, once an actress, is now a writer, in common with her parents. Fugard's wife, Sheila, is a novelist.

Speaking about other changes, Fugard said: "I gave up drinking. I gave up smoking. Two weeks ago I gave up coffee." Then came his announcement: "I'm giving up acting." The last performance of "Tiger" in February, he said, will be his final stage appearance.

He closed the conversation with a bit of advice: "You must never make rules about writing. That's the first thing I say when I talk to students. After I said that in one lecture, a student asked, 'So how do you start?' And I said, 'Wait for the moment when the paper isn't looking at you.'"



PRINCELY ASCENT — Prince Charles of Britain and his son, Harry, taking the lift up a mountain at the Swiss resort of Klosters on Tuesday.

TWO people who threw custard pies at Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft, in Brussels last February have been fined by a Belgian court. The two, who were not identified, were fined by the Police Court in Brussels, a spokeswoman for the Public Prosecutor's Office said Tuesday. She said she could not detail the amount of the fines, but the newspaper La Dernière Heure reported that each was fined 3,000 Belgian francs (about \$90). Gates was visiting Brussels after a meeting with world and business leaders in Switzerland when the attack occurred.

Three wooden statues thought to be more than 4,000 years old have been found in a tomb in Saqqara, south of Cairo, the Egyptian government said Tuesday. The statues represent the same person in three positions, said the secretary-general of council of antiquities, Gaballah Ali Gaballah. "These rare and beautiful statues are in excellent condition and were found inside a tomb near the Pyramid of Teti in

Saqqara," Gaballah said. They will be displayed at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, he said.

Carl Bernstein, who has written about Richard Nixon and Pope John Paul II, is working on a book about Hillary Clinton. He has signed a deal with Knopf to chronicle the life of the

woman he calls "clearly one of the most remarkable figures of our time." Marsha Berry, a spokeswoman for the first lady, said she had not spoken with Bernstein about the project and could not comment on whether Clinton would submit to interviews.

A 350-year-old scholarship fund en-

£9.95 Can Now Get You One £5 Diana

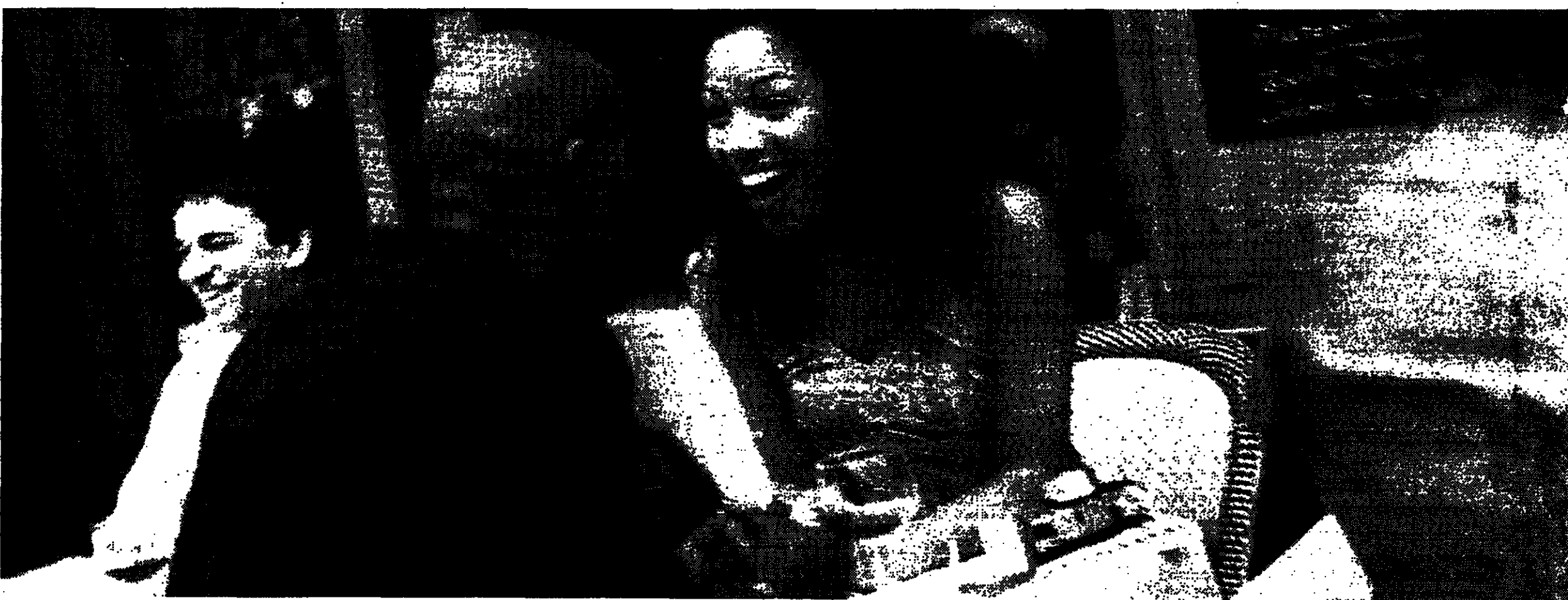
LONDON — Britain's Royal Mint introduced a £5 coin on Tuesday in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. The coin features a portrait of Diana in profile on one side and the standard image of Queen Elizabeth II on the other. It is the first official memorial organized by the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Committee, which was formed after the princess's death in 1997 to come up with suitable ways of honoring her. A commemorative coin was one of the most popular ideas.

The coin, which is legal tender, can be purchased in a special commemorative folder for £9.95 (\$16). Gold and silver versions of the coin will be available in April. The coins will also be sold at face value by banks and post offices after July 1, Diana's birthday.

The proceeds are to go to charities and other memorials.

dowed by a feudal lord has been discovered and will soon benefit needy university students, Italian newspaper report. The fund was endowed by Clemente Loddo, the lord of the northern town of Arzano, who died in 1641, but his will was lost for centuries and no students ever benefited. The fragile parchment that set up the fund was discovered recently in the papers of the Loddo Foundation by city officials. The scholarship fund now amounts to 300 million lire (about \$130,000).

Tapping a collection that has been growing since 1826, the National Academy Museum in New York will hold an exhibition to give significant exposure to its holdings of works on paper. The show, "Treasures Revealed: 19th- and 20th-Century Works on Paper," consisting of about 100 drawings, prints and watercolors by American artists, opens Saturday and runs through March 7. The artists include James Carroll Beckwith, Jasper Johns, Thomas Moran and Elihu Vedder.



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